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USSR 'ATTENTIVELY FOLLOWING' NATO RESPONSE TO DRAFT

PM291231 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "At the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center"]

[Text] The Soviet draft "Treaty Between the USSR and the United States on the Elimination of Soviet and U.S. Medium-Range Missiles in Europe and on Other Measures To Limit and Reduce USSR and U.S. Medium-Range Missiles" creates a good basis for the speediest elaboration of a mutually acceptable accord. This was pointed out at a 28 April briefing at the USSR Foreign Ministry Press Center, where it was stated that Moscow is attentively following the discussion in leading NATO spheres of the Soviet initiatives relating to medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles.

In an interview relayed recently to West Europe U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz attempted to answer the question: How will the realization of the Soviet proposals affect the NATO states' security? It is impossible to disagree with a whole number of his ideas. This applies, for example, to the assertion that the Soviet proposals speak of reducing the very Soviet medium-range missiles whose elimination was sought by the NATO countries and "against which was undertaken the deployment" of U.S. Pershing-2 and cruise missiles in the past.

Addressing the concern expressed in certain NATO circles, Shultz continued that an agreement on medium-range missiles will not lead to the undermining of NATO'S "flexible response doctrine" based on the use of nuclear weapons. In any case, he remarked, the West will be left with a large number of nuclear weapons -- missiles on submarines, aircraft, and also Lance tactical missiles.

It is impossible not to note, it was emphasized at the briefing, the considered and reasonable nature of the views expounded by the U.S. secretary of state. Evidently, the discussions during the recent Soviet-U.S. talks in Moscow were not in vain.

The U.S. news media have recently carried reports of statements by P. Nitze, arms control adviser to the President and the U.S. secretary of state. They refer to the Soviet stand on strengthening the regime of the ABM Treaty, which was expounded to G. Shultz in Moscow. Correspondents were reminded that the Soviet side had submitted proposals on elaborating "key provisions," which would include a principled accord on strengthening the regime of the ABM Treaty -- an accord providing for the sides' mutual pledge not to withdraw from the treaty for 10 years, while strictly observing it.

DISARMAMENT PROGRESS 'BLOCKED' BY WEST'S POSITION

LD291709 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1606 GMT 29 Apr 87

["First Part of the Session of the Disarmament Conference is Ending" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Geneva, 29 Apr (TASS) -- The first, spring part of the session of this year's disarmament conference ends tomorrow. Despite some optimistic hopes, the conference has not managed to make progress to an extent that would accord with the aspirations of the world community. Owing to the position of the United States and several of its NATO partners, constructive discussion of questions of nuclear disarmament, the halting of nuclear weapons tests, and prevention of an arms race in space is being blocked, and a brake has been applied to the course of the talks on the banning of chemical weapons, where there are realistic prospects for success this year. The session will resume its work on 9 June.

GENERAL LEBEDEV INTERVIEWED ON EUROMISSILE CURB

PM291655 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 5

[Interview with Major General Yu. Lebedev, deputy chief of a USSR Armed Forces General Staff directorate: "Major General Yu. Lebedev: Will the West Display the Political Will?" -- date and place not given]

[Text] The Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space arms resumed in Geneva last week. The Soviet delegation was instructed to embark immediately, on the very first day of the new round, in conjunction with the U.S. delegation, on the elaboration of concrete accords on medium-range nuclear missiles and operational and tactical missiles.

"What nuclear armaments in Europe does it concern?" was the first question an IZVESTIYA correspondent put to Major General Yu. Lebedev, deputy chief of a USSR Armed Forces General Staff directorate.

[Lebedev] If we are talking about medium-range missiles, the United States currently has 380 in Western Europe. Of these 108 are Pershing-2's and 272 are cruise missiles. There are 355 missiles in the European part of the Soviet Union: 243 SS-20's and 112 SS-4's. As is known, the Soviet Union has suspended [priostanovleno] deployment of these missiles. Moreover, some of the SS-20 missiles have been taken out of service unilaterally. Deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles, however, is in full swing.

[IZVESTIYA] And apart from the medium-range missiles?

[Lebedev] There are Soviet operational and tactical missiles in Europe, that is, missiles with a range of 500-1,000 km, and tactical nuclear weapons with a range of 500 km and less.

As well as Pershing-2's and cruise missiles, the United States has other forward-based nuclear weapons on the European Continent: 640 carrier aircraft capable of striking throughout the depth of the territory of the European socialist countries and a substantial part of the USSR's European zone; in addition to this, the U.S. 6th and 2d operational fleets are operating permanently in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic and around 300 deck ground-attack aircraft carrying nuclear weapons are based on their aircraft carriers. Finally, these fleet' surface ships and nuclear submarines continue to be armed with sea-based cruise missiles with a range of about 2,600 km.

Add to this the fact that the armed forces of the West European NATO states have more than 700 tactical strike aircraft with nuclear weapons on board, 72 Pershing-1A ballistic missile launch installations, and over 100 launch installations for Lance missiles, which can carry nuclear charge. The Armed Forces of the United States and its NATO allied have over 2,000 nuclear artillery pieces and more than 7,000 nuclear warheads in Western Europe.

[IZVESTIYA] What is to be investigated now, at the present round of the Geneva talks?

[Lebedev] The USSR delegation at the Geneva talks was instructed to embark immediately, on 23 April, in conjunctions with the U.S. delegation, on the elaboration of concrete accords on medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles. A Soviet draft treaty on medium-range missiles was placed on the negotiating table. In the other groups the U.S. side was requested to elaborate key provisions relating to a 50-percent reduction by the Soviet Union and the United States in their strategic offensive armaments in conjunction with the solution of questions concerning strengthening the ABM Treaty setup. [paragraph continues]

But first of all I would remind you of the following. During the meeting between M.S. Gorbachev and R. Reagan in Reykjavik last October the sides reached an accord on the total destruction of Soviet and U.S. European medium-range missiles. The Soviet Union also proposed a freeze on the number of operational and tactical missiles in Europe with a range of less than 1,000 km. The Soviet Union would be able to have 100 medium-range missile warheads in Asia and the United States would be able to have the same number on its own national territory, stationed in such a way that they cannot reach one another's territory. Together with the other proposals -- on strategic offensive armaments, banning nuclear tests, and strengthening the ABM Treaty setup -- the medium-range missile proposals formed a package and required a comprehensive solution.

Immediately after the Reykjavik meeting, which demonstrated that nuclear disarmament is perfectly feasible, a number of Western figures tried to accuse the Soviet side of complicating the question of medium-range missiles on the pretext that the USSR was insisting that it could only be examined as part of a package.

Demonstrating in practice its adherence to eliminating nuclear weapons, and with a view to practical progress at the talks, the Soviet Union took one more step: On 28 February the Soviet side's readiness to single that problem out from the block of other questions and to conclude a separate agreement on medium-range missiles without delay was declared.

What is more, the Soviet Union announced that, immediately after an agreement is signed, by agreement with the GDR and CSSR Governments, it will withdraw from those countries the increased range operational and tactical missiles that were sited there as a countermeasure to the deployment of Pershing-2 and cruise missiles, and it also expressed readiness to embark at once on talks on missiles of that category with a view to reducing and totally eliminating them. In so doing the Soviet Union reckoned that the West would finally undertake to conclude a corresponding accord.

It turned out, however, that there is a vast distance between the West's declarative statements and an actual agreement. They seem to have forgotten their recent assurances of their readiness to resolve the question of medium-range missiles without delay as soon as it is singled out from the total package, and they have begun inflating with new force the thesis of the "Soviet military threat" and presenting the matter as though West Europe will find itself "unarmed" and "defenseless" without U.S. Pershings and cruise missiles.

The U.S. side began departing step by step from the accord on medium-range missiles reached in Reykjavik. To that end intensive discussion began of options for reequipping medium-range Pershing-2 missiles as Pershing-1B's with a range of less than 1,000 km and relocating U.S. cruise missiles from dry land onto warships. The infrastructure of the U.S. medium-range missiles would be preserved here so as to be able, if necessary, to revive them in Europe. In addition, it was planned to reduce medium-range missiles in such a way that Soviet missiles would be destroyed first of all, and only then U.S. ones.

In general, we did not see any U.S. desire to take advantage of the opportunities presented to improve the international situation.

[IZVESTIYA] In other words, the Soviet leadership's decision to remove [vychlenit] medium-range missiles from the total package of proposals which we advanced in Reykjavik was extremely complex?

[Lebedev] Yes, and I would like to point out that in the reduction and destruction of medium-range missiles the Soviet Union left to one side the U.S. forward-based nuclear means -- hundreds of aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons based on dry land and on aircraft carriers, which can inflict strikes far beyond the borders of Europe's socialist countries. The British and French nuclear forces are not touched either.

[IZVESTIYA] Incidentally, what is the composition of those states' nuclear forces?

[Lebedev] Britain's nuclear force includes 4-nuclear-powered missile-carrying submarines, each of which is equipped with 16 Polaris A-3TK ballistic missile launchers (each missile has 6 nuclear warheads), with a range of up to 4,000 km, as well as approximately 200 tactical aircraft capable of carrying nuclear weapons. In the early nineties it is planned to purchase Trident 2 ballistic missiles, with which the new British missile-carrying submarines will be equipped.

France's nuclear forces include 6 missile-capable nuclear-powered submarines with 96 launchers. In addition, France has 18 silo-based launchers for ballistic missiles with a range of over 3,500 km, around 30 Mirage IVA bombers capable of carrying nuclear warheads and air-to-ground missiles, and also over 70 nuclear-capable tactical strike aircraft. France's ground forces have around 40 launchers for Pluton nuclear missiles with a range of over 120 km.

S-4 ground-based strategic missiles with a range of over 5,000 km and M-5 sea-based missiles (with a range of around 6,000 km) are at the development stage [stadiya razrabotki] in France. The Hades missile, with a range of over 350 km, is being developed [razrabatyvatsya] for the ground forces.

The difficulty of the decision the Soviet leadership made is also illustrated by the fact that our proposal on medium-range missiles was put forward in conditions when Washington is continuing the accelerated implementation of all its arms programs -- both nuclear and space strike arms. At the same time, the Soviet leadership's decision was carefully balanced from the viewpoint of safeguarding the security of our country and its allies.

Speaking in Prague, M.S. Gorbachev developed the Soviet position so as to prevent our opponents from delaying the conclusion of an accord on medium-range missiles and ultimately from preventing an accord being reached. The proposal was made to begin the discussion of the question of reducing and subsequently eliminating operational and tactical missiles sited on the European Continent. Furthermore, in conversation with Secretary of State Shultz, M.S. Gorbachev expressed a readiness to include in a medium-range missile agreement the Soviet Union's commitment to simultaneously remove its operational and tactical missiles in Europe and hold talks on those missiles sited in the east of our country and on U.S. territory. Furthermore, for the duration of the talks the two sides would assume a commitment not to build up missiles of this class.

The USSR is also ready to resolve the question of tactical nuclear facilities in conjunction with the reduction of armed forces and conventional armaments in Europe at separate multilateral talks in accordance with the Warsaw Pact states' Budapest initiative.

Completely destroying the militarist circles' arguments regarding the "insincerity" of the Soviet proposals, the USSR once again showed its determination to overcome the obstacles in the way of eliminating nuclear missiles in Europe. This cannot go unnoticed in the West, and the U.S. side must give a response on whether it is ready for a mutually acceptable accord in this area.

Since we are talking about the reduction and elimination of whole classes of armaments, it is appropriate to add that the question of verification acquire a qualitatively new significance and becomes one of the most important means of ensuring security. Thus the USSR advocates the elaboration and application of the strictest measures in this sphere including on-site inspection, which must apply not only to the remaining missiles and launchers but all other facilities, in particular: test sites, manufacturing plants, training centers, and so forth. Inspectors must also be allowed access to the other side's military bases located on the territory of third countries.

[IZVESTIYA] How do you assess the prospects for reaching an accord?

[Lebedev] I will say this: Recent events have convincingly demonstrated the possibility of taking in Europe the first very important step along the path to a nuclear-free world. If the West, and above all the United States, shows the political will, the Soviet proposals on the elimination of medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe can be implemented in the very near future and the breakthrough in the international situation the world's peoples hope for can be achieved.

Note must be made, however, of the unconstructive stance taken by Washington and some of its NATO allies which, to all appearances, is due to their lack of readiness to resolve the security problem on the basis of equality and reciprocity. Some cite their "Atlantic commitments," others cite the concept of "nuclear deterrence," a concept that is becoming obsolete -- they intend to retain the U.S. missiles in Europe and delay the solution of this most important problem. The essence of this stance was recently set out frankly by U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger. He stated that strength -- the "effective deterrent" -- is still the main factor in it. But the time of the "policy of strength" in the modern world is disappearing. The sooner this happens, the better. Better for all. The peoples of Europe have already understood this well -- now NATO's leaders must understand it, too.

CHERVOV INTERVIEWED ON LATEST INITIATIVES

AU290752 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 25 Apr 87 p 5

[Interview with USSR Colonel General Nikolay Chervov by NOVOSTI commentator Vasiliy Morozov: "Let Us Not Waste a Unique Opportunity" -- place and date not given]

[Text] [Morozov] How can the current situation in nuclear disarmament be assessed? Are there realistic possibilities for achieving an agreement on medium-range missiles or on strategic offensive weapons?

[Chervov] The current situation can be regarded as a unique opportunity that has arisen thanks to the latest broad Soviet initiatives based on the possibility of reaching an accord on the fundamental reduction of the number of nuclear weapons, proposed in Reykjavik.

Regarding strategic offensive weapons, the USSR is prepared to take the most forceful steps -- to reduce their number by 50 percent within 5 years, as well as to fully eliminate these weapons within 10 years, provided that weapons in space are banned and that the treaty on the limitation of antiballistic defense systems is strictly adhered to.

We are making concessions in this regard. We have postponed the solution of problems connected with U.S. forward-based nuclear devices capable of hitting USSR territory; we have agreed to a 50 percent reduction in the number of heavy intercontinental ballistic missiles and agreed to count bombs and the U.S. SRAM missiles fitted to heavy bombers as a single warhead [naloz], and we are prepared to limit the number of long-range sea-based cruise missiles to a special level (apart from the overall number of warheads on strategic weapons).

However, the United States is obviously still not prepared to resolve the problem of strategic offensive weapons and want us to return to the stance we held prior to Reykjavik. Again they submit demands about "levels" and "sublevels" of warheads of intercontinental ballistic missiles and strategic guided missiles on submarines, which lead to the impairment of the system of Soviet strategic offensive weapons and would lead to their reorganization according to U.S. ideas, to the detriment of the USSR's security interests. The United States proposes to postpone the realization of the agreement on the 50 percent reduction to 7 years instead of 5, and, on the other hand, they want to move up the pledge not to violate the treaty on the limitation of antiballistic defense systems from 10 to 7 years.

It is impossible to radically reduce the number of strategic offensive weapons when the other side is expanding its antiballistic defenses. If the United States will be developing its space-based antiballistic system, no agreement on strategic offensive weapons is possible.

[Morozov] Can an agreement on strategic offensive weapons be achieved?

[Chervov] Yes, this is possible. We have close standpoints, but we are stuck over the issue of space. If we succeed in agreeing that an offensive system must not be created in space, then we could probably also agree on the other issues. In an effort to find the solution to the space problem, the USSR proposes a compromise: It agrees to laboratory tests, by which one understands work on the earth -- in institutes, at test ranges, and in enterprises.

[Morozov] The issue of medium-range missiles has come to the fore now.

[Chervov] The USSR, bearing in mind the exceptionally great importance of the problem of medium-range missiles to Europe, agrees to fundamental compromises -- it has agreed that the nuclear weapons of Great Britain and France will not be included in the count; it has agreed to a considerable reduction of the number of medium-range missiles in Asia, and postponed the decision on airborne [letecke] medium-range devices, although -- together with the British and French missiles -- they constitute a serious danger to the security of the Warsaw Pact member states.

However, the United States and NATO do not properly appreciate our compromises and have even begun pulling back from their own "zero option." The United States is trying to keep the Pershing-2's from being eliminated, but wants them to be adapted to short-range missiles, it is trying for the conversion of cruise missiles to nonnuclear cruise missiles, or allowing them to be stationed on warships, and they want the infrastructure of medium-range missiles in Europe to remain. Also, the United States wishes to link the problem of medium-range missiles with short-range missiles, which means it wants to create a new "package." [paragraph continues]

The United States also wants to gain superiority in the very process of limiting the number of weapons, and proposes a timetable for the reduction of the number of warheads [striely], according to which it could even increase the number of its medium-range missiles, while the USSR would be unilaterally limiting their number.

Regarding tactical missiles, that is, those having a range up to 500 km, which are, according to the structure of the Warsaw Pact and NATO Armed Forces, an organic part of military alliances and blocs, it would be useful to discuss them at European talks on conventional weapons (from the Atlantic to the Urals) in a package with offensive air strike forces, nuclear artillery, and other tactical nuclear devices. The necessity of discussing these issues together arises from the fact that the majority of tactical nuclear weapons are "dual purpose" weapons, that is, they can carry conventional as well as nuclear warheads.

To put it concisely, the situation today is such that the achievement of an agreement on medium-range missiles depends on the United States alone. The Reagan administration understands that, and it is increasingly difficult for it to keep on refusing an agreement on medium-range missiles. Washington cannot reject the Soviet proposal now without definitely undermining its standpoints. The fact that the NATO countries still hesitate to make a decision proves only one thing, that is, that they do not make the best impression in the current situation.

PROSPECT FOR MEDIUM-RANGE MISSILE AGREEMENT VIEWED

PM281047 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 23 Apr 87 First Edition p 3

[Article by Yu. Gavrilov: "Time For Important Decisions. Will the West Display the Political Will?"]

[Text] The Soviet-U.S. talks on nuclear and space armaments resume in Geneva today.

By mutual agreement, the groups concerned with medium-range missiles are starting this round somewhat earlier than the groups on space and strategic offensive armaments. It is in this area of the talks that the preconditions exist for decisive progress toward an accord.

In fact, the Geneva talks are resuming at a special time. New, real opportunities have now emerged for a fundamental change in international relations. Last week the Soviet Union again convincingly demonstrated that, given the political will, the problem of arms control and disarmament can be successfully solved. It is this that is giving the Geneva talks an important positive impetus. In fact, the new proposals put forward by M.S. Gorbachev during his visit to Prague and at the meeting with G. Shultz have created favorable prospects for the achievement of an agreement on medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles and for progress in other areas of talks between the USSR and the United States on nuclear and space armaments.

The substance of these proposals was clearly set out by M.S. Gorbachev at the Kremlin luncheon in honor of W. Jaruzelski. For Europe it means:

First, eliminating all Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe in the next 5 years, keeping only 100 warheads each on those missiles in the Asian part of the USSR and on the territory of the United States.

Second, simultaneously eliminating Soviet and U.S. operational and tactical missiles in Europe and holding talks on such missiles in the east of our country and on the territory of the United States.

Third, establishing the strictest possible system of verification, up to and including on-site inspections, of fulfillment of the sides' commitments on this score.

The USSR delegation at the Soviet-U.S. talks in Geneva has been instructed to immediately -- that is, today -- embark, together with the U.S. delegation, on elaborating specific accords on the issues in question.

Fourth, examining and tackling the question of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe, including tactical missiles, at separate multilateral talks in accordance with the Budapest initiative by the USSR, Poland, and other Warsaw Pact states on reducing armed forces and conventional armaments on the European Continent -- from the Atlantic to the Urals.

Let us pose the question that bothers everyone: Will the USSR and the United States be able in the very near future to reach practical agreements in the disarmament sphere in view of the opportunities that are presenting themselves?

As was stressed at the CPSU Central Committee Politburo session, this will depend on what conclusions the U.S. Administration draws from the proposals put forward by the Soviet leadership during the talks in Moscow. As for the USSR, it is ready for a joint solution of questions of disarmament, above all medium-range missiles and shorter-range missiles, in an atmosphere of active dialogue and quest for mutual understanding.

Judging by reports from Washington, the President has made an optimistic assessment of the results of G. Shultz' Moscow talks. At the same time, people in the United States have been urging caution and even speaking out against an arms control agreement. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR points out that there is no concerted approach to arms control issues within the administration itself and there is a lack of agreement regarding the projected accord on nuclear missiles in Europe. "The Pentagon hardliners," the paper writes, "want to continue putting military, economic, and technological pressure on the Soviet Union." They are seeking to delay the achievement of accords and they "loathe the idea that Congress might find grounds for cutting military expenditure."

They are now saying in Washington that the Soviet proposals have to be discussed with the NATO allies. So what is the reaction to them in Western Europe? The impression is that despite the occasional expressions of optimism, the NATO capitals, where only recently they were pushing so hard for the "zero option," that is, the elimination of medium-range missiles, are now looking for "arguments" in favor of delaying the conclusion of an agreement. The old stereotypes of "Atlantic thinking" and the fear of abandoning the obsolete and dangerous strategy of nuclear deterrence are in evidence. They are employing the hackneyed thesis that the elimination of nuclear weapons in Europe would allegedly tip the balance of power in favor of the USSR and the Warsaw Pact. They are circulating myths about the "overwhelming superiority" of the USSR and its allies in conventional armaments, about the "Soviet military threat" to the countries of Western Europe. According to NATO's "topsy-turvy logic," ridding Europe of nuclear weapons would only increase the likelihood of war on the continent (?!).

In short, in the United States and the other NATO countries there are many influential forces that, unable to openly oppose the Soviet initiatives and fearing a negative reaction from the general public in their countries, are nevetheless prepared to put a spoke in the wheel of the achievement of an agreement between the USSR and the United States. Here is what the West German paper WESTDEUTSCHE ALLGEMEINE notes in this connection: "The NATO partners, who have been trying for many years to get the world powers to the negotiating table, are now forced to apply the brake." A convenient position for those circles in the United States that do not actually want an accord and do not mind hiding behind the allies and taking refuge in the need for them to work out a "common stance!"

So the ambiguous and contradictory nature of the reaction by the United States and its partners to the Soviet proposals is obvious. Time will tell what their reply will be. In the meantime, the press reports, President Reagan is meeting with the leaders of both parties in the U.S. Congress and will then begin consultations with the NATO countries' leaders. Possible NATO responses will be examined in New Mexico (United States) at a session of the NATO group dealing with matters of military policy, and also at the end of April by the experts of the bloc group on matters pertaining to medium-range missiles. Nor does the press rule out the possibility of convening yet another extraordinary NATO Council session, as happened in Brussels recently.

This will take a certain amount of time. The main this is that it should not be spent searching for phony complications and tricks. The peoples of Europe and of the whole world have a right to expect of the leaders of the United States and its NATO allies a constructive response matching the Soviet proposals, practical actions and steps on the path to achieving agreements, and a display of political will in order to positively decide problems pertaining to safeguarding peace.

The U.S. observer F. Lewis writes in THE NEW YORK TIMES that a balanced approach and "caution" are needed, of course, in these important matters. But, she makes the reasonable observation, "it is no reason to hide in a ditch, especially as this ditch is 'bristling' with nuclear weapons. The time has come to pluck up courage and scramble out." Later on she writes: "So much effort has gone into the cold war, and virtually nothing has gone into the search for a way out, so we (that is, NATO -- Yu. Gavrilov) have no guides."

Well, one has to agree with the opinion expressed by F. Lewis, who chose a notable headline for her article: "Do Not Fear The Russian Word 'Da'." I will only add that there is a guide to show the way out of the blind alleys created by NATO: It is the initiatives put forward at the Moscow talks by the Soviet side, which, to quote THE WASHINGTON POST, "shook observers with its boldness, innovation, and fresh ideas."

U.S. SPOKESMAN CITED ON INF, CONVENTIONAL FORCES

LD281629 Moscow TASS in English 1624 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 28 TASS -- The U.S. Administration believes that there is no need to tie a solution of the issue of "conventional force imbalances" in Europe to an INF (Intermediate Nuclear Force) agreement", spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told journalists on Monday. [quotation marks as received]

He explained the administration's stand on the issue in connection with an article published in THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper by Richard Nixon, former president of the USA, and Henry Kissinger, former U.S. secretary of state.

The Vienna talks on conventional armed forces and arms, according to the spokesman, enable the USA to state its concern over the issue and recognition of its existence. The USA regards such an approach as a right one.

Mr Fitzwater said the USA agreed to an interim accord which reflected the concept which presupposes the keeping of 100 warheads on longer-range INF nuclear missilies on each side on the basis of an INF agreement.

He went on to say that the USA agrees that the elimination of the remaining warheads will broaden possibilities for the verification of an INF agreement. Mr Fitzwater did not agree with the opinion of Mr Nixon who had questioned the entire "Star Wars" program and who described the SDI as a myth.

FRG 'TORPEDOING' SOVIET-U.S. DISARMAMENT TALKS

LD121943 Moscow TASS in English 1930 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Bonn April 12 TASS -- TASS correspondent Vladimir Smelov reporting:

While advocating the elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles from Europe in words, Bonn intends to go ahead with new programs for missile systems buildup. In doing so, it would torpedo disarmament talks between the Soviet Union and the United States, said Erwin Horn, a defense expert of the Social Democratic (SPD) group, in the West German Bundestag.

According to his data, the West German Government is to submit to the Federal Security Council as early as next May plans for converting Pershing-2 missiles into Pershing-IB's by removing one stage of the former.

Such systems with a range of up to 1,000 kilometers are called upon to replace 72 Pershing-1A missiles currently in service with the West German Air Force.

In addition to that, Erwin Horn emphasized, the West German Government plans to replace Lance tactical missiles with so-called Army Tactical Missile Systems (ATACMS).

Pershing-1B's and ATACMS are dual-capable systems, the is, they can be fitted out with both conventional and nuclear warheads. This would blur the distinction between nuclear and conventional weapons and make verification and any disarmament accord impossible, Erwin Horn emphasized.

The Government of West Germany should recognize that by carrying out new military projects at the time when disarmament talks are in progress in Geneva it is torpedoing the complete elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles which Bonn is advocating in words, the expert said.

Thus, the West German Government is misleading the public as regards its approach to the "zero option" on medium-range missiles and issues related to it.

KARPOV EXPLAINS DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS IN MADRID

LD290742 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Viktor Karpov, director general for disarmament [title as heard] at the USSR Foreign Ministry, had talks this morning with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordonez to explain the USSR's disarmament proposals. Correspondent Nacho Hernandez reports:

[Hernandez] These talks were rounded off by an appearance before the foreign affairs committee by the man who is seen as the Soviet diplomat on disarmament questions. Viktor Karpov, speaking in the Upper Chamber [of the Senate], said that it is better to have even a partial agreement on disarmament than no agreement at all.

Later, speaking on the second Spanish television news bulletin, he referred to the Geneva talks. According to what he said, an agreement on reducing nuclear missiles may be reached shortly, while he also emphasized that the head of the Soviet delegation in Geneva possesses full negotiating powers.

[Begin Karpov recording in Russian with superimposed translation] Now the way is open for us to work out in the near future, in a short time -- in 2 and 3 months -- a joint draft text of the agreement ready to be signed. We are ready to undertake this task, and our representative who has made this proposal has full powers to continue work on the joint text. [end recording]

[Hernandez] Viktor Karpov, who has been explaning the USSR disarmament proposals to the Spanish authorities for the last 2 days, believes that the arms control verification mechanism offered in Geneva offers every guarantee.

[Begin Karpov recording in Russian with superimposed translation] In our plan it is clearly envisaged that at every stage in eliminating medium-range missiles an exact and rigid control system will be created, a system that will also foresee in situ verification, inspection, and (?visits) to the sites where missiles are being eliminated and those places where missiles are tested. [end recording]

Calls Meeting 'Useful'

LD282227 Madrid in Spanish to Europe 1130 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] [Soviet leader] Gorbachev's latest proposals on eliminating short-range and medium-range missiles from Europe will be one of the most important subjects of the talks between Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans and his Spanish counterpart, Francisco Fernandez Ordonez. This subject will undoubtedly be especially emphasized after the current visit to Madrid by top Soviet expert, adviser, and former negotiator Viktor Karpov, who is now Mikhail Gorbachev's close adviser. This morning he ended his official visit to Spain with a meeting with Foreign Minister Fernandez Ordonez.

Karpov had a 40-minute meeting with the Spanish foreign minister and briefed him on the Soviet peace initiatives promoted by the Soviet leader. Gorbachev's adviser on disarmament questions described the meeting with Fernandez Ordonez as very useful and briefly stated that he had briefed the foreign minister on details of the Soviet proposals. Tomorrow Karpov leaves Madrid. His visit is part of a tour of capitals of Western European countries by Soviet representatives to explain the Soviet position on disarmament matters. Viktor Karpov is seen as the outstanding Soviet diplomat on disarmament questions. He was Soviet ambassador in Washington and until last January led the Soviet delegation at the disarmament talks in Geneva.

BESSMERTNYKH VISITS UK TO EXPLAIN ARMS STAND

LD291450 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1346 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] A Soviet minister met his British counterparts in London today to explain his country's attitude to arms control issues is particular proposals for removing intermediate range nuclear weapons from Europe.

Mr Aleksandr Bessmertnykh, the Soviet deputy foreign minister, visited the Foreign Office for a 70-minute meeting with Mr Timothy Renton, the minister responsible for arms control.

The Foreign Office said later he summarised recent developments in Soviet arms control policies including the talks in Moscow, involving U.S Secretary of State Mr George Shultz, and the negotiations with the U.S. in Geneva.

The Soviet minister did not deliver a copy of the draft treaty on the proposals for the removal of intermediate range nuclear missiles from Europe which was tabled in Geneva two days ago. He is due to see Mrs Thatcher at Downing Street later today.

Mr Bessmertnykh is one of a number of Soviet envoys visiting European capitals on similar missions.

Talks With Thatcher

LD292009 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1919 GMT 29 Apr 87

[By Tom McMullan, PRESS ASSOCIATION diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Mrs Thatcher today drew attention to "difficulties" in Soviet proposals for eliminating intermediate range nuclear weapons from Europe, according to a statement issued after talks at Downing Street with the deputy Soviet foreign ministry.

Mr Aleksandr Bessmertnykh saw the prime minister for 50 minutes, and the talks, described as "substantial" were said to have taken place in a good atmosphere.

The statement said Mr Bessmertnykh called to brief Mrs Thatcher on the latest Soviet proposals in Geneva on intermediate and short range nuclear weapons.

The prime minister was said to have reaffirmed the government's commitment to achieving rapid progress in the Geneva negotiations, and emphasised the British Government accepted the zero option for intermediate range nuclear weapons, although would prefer this to be a global zero. But, according to the statement, Mrs Thatcher drew attention to "a number of difficulties" in the Soviet plans. She stressed that the alliance was engaged in urgent discussion on the Soviet proposals on shorter range nuclear weapons, and hoped a common position would soon be reached. Any agreement must preserve Europe's security and take account of the Soviet Union's substantial superiority in both conventional and chemical weapons.

Mr Bessmertnykh is one of a number of Soviet envoys visiting European capitals on similar missions.

U.S. BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS EUROPEAN 'CONCERN'

LD301235 Moscow TASS in English 1215 GMT 30 Apr 87

["Source of Concern for the Europeans" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS -- "The Europeans have every reason to feel concern since the USA is effectively prepared for chemical and bacteriological warfare in Europe," says the commentary in the "VOENNIY VESTNIK" (MILITARY REVIEW) of the NOVOSTI press agency.

The commentary deals with the violation by the USA of the international convention on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of bacteriological and toxic weapons and on their destruction. Prior to 1975, when the convention took effect, the USA conducted experiments to develop at least 113 types of combat bacteriological weapons. This follows from a report by the Science and Astronautics Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, which was issued in February 1977. After 1975 such work has no longer been conducted, U.S. representative say.

Yes it is noteworthy that at the second conference of the countries -- signatories to the convention held in September 1986 and at the meeting of science and technology experts in April 1987 the U.S. delegations opposed both the setting up of a mechanism of control and a system to monitor the character of the work carried out by the national bacteriological laboratories. This is a serious indication of the fact bacteriological research and development with military aims was not stopped.

Over the time since the signing of the above-mentioned convention the U.S. Army has also received the 13 types of bacteriological weapons, which were mentioned in the report of the house science and astronautics committee and another 17 projects, which were classified and completed over the period from 1975 to 1981. They are anthrax, cholera, botulinum toxin, brucellosis, spotted fever of rocky mountains, diseases caused by coxalgia, diphtheria and glanders viruses and other pathogenes.

The carriage of the above-said infections is regulated by the U.S. Army rules FM-3-20 put into effect since July 30, 1981.

Note shall also be taken of that also because the pathogenes and toxins are prepared for the carriage and real use by the U.S. Army as an offensive weapon precisely in the European theatre.

The command of the U.S. Army, Navy and the Air Force is in charge of support for the special operations by a task force in Europe with the use of chemical and biological weapons. The use of these types of weapons is the duty of a task force (landing forces).

The right of the decision on the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons is vested in the special operations commander without special consultations even with the U.S. allies in NATO. Consequently the situation is far more dangerous than it may seem.

In that connection the European have the right to hope for convicing proof from the USA as regards:

A. The lack of chemical and bacteriological weapons ready for actual use and means of their delivery in the U.S. bases in Europe.

B. Preparedness for the strictest control, including on-site inspection and inspection of laboratories suspected of carrying out biological research with military aims.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERNCE OPENS IN NICARAGUA

PM291059 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Meeting of Parliamentarians"]

[Excerpts] Managua, 28 Apr -- The 77th IPU conference opened here yesterday. Taking part are representatives of 88 countries, including a delegation from the USSR Parliamentary Group headed by L.N. Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Soviet of the Union and chairman of the USSR Parliamentary Group.

The envoys of all continents with different political and ideological views have convened in Managua for one purpose -- to defend peace, security, and the survival of mankind -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said at the opening of the conference. [passage omitted]

On the same day plenary sessions began at the conference. Then it was addressed by V.S. Stempanov, deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The memorandum submitted by the Soviet parliamentarians set forth in detail their view of the reasons for the crisis in the Near East and ways of restoring a just and lasting peace in this region, the Soviet representative said. As M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, stressed recently, the time has come to embark on practical work to convene an international peace conference on the Near East. The initiative on this question could go to the permanent members of the Security Council. The Soviet Union is prepared to make constructive efforts for this purpose.

LUKONIN ATTENDS TOKYO INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FORUM

PM281443 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 18 Apr 87 p 3

[TASS report: "Peaceful Use of the Atom"]

[Text] Tokyo, 17 Apr -- Topical problems relating to the nuclear power industry and the extensive industrial use of nuclear power for civilian purposes and questions of international cooperation in this sphere were discussed at the now completed Japanese nuclear industry forum held here. Representatives from India, the PRC, France, the FRG, the USSR, the United States, Japan, and the IAEA took part in its work.

The Japanese and foreign specialists presented their national programs to develop the nuclear power industry and improve nuclear equipment and technology and exchanged opinions on questions of expanding cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear power to resolve energy probblems, develop the economy, and assist developing countries in Asia in the peaceful use of nuclear power. An important place in the conference's work was given to urgent questions of improving the reliability and safety of nuclear power plants and preventing pollution of the atmosphere.

Considerable interest was aroused among the participants by the Integrated Program for the Development of the Soviet Nuclear Power Industry, presented at a plenary session by N.F. Lukonin, USSR minister of nuclear power generation.

PRAVDA REVIEWS STATE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PM281231 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

["International Review" by Nikolay Prozhogin]

[Text] Responsibility for Socialism [subhead]

Mankind is experiencing an alarming period in its history. The unprecedented achievements of the scientific and technical revolution have opened up for it undreamed-of horizons of progress, but they also threaten it with destruction. Profound shifts and shocks are also taking place in sociopolitical life.

The socialist world is also entering a new and crucial stage in its development. In order to respond to the demands history poses and to proceed in step with the times, socialism -- the newest social formation -- will have to solve many tasks at the present stage of its development in deepening democratic gains, removing all obstacles in the way of people's creative self-realization, creating conditions for developing the economic, political, and social initiatives of the broad working people's masses, and utilizing the entire wealth of each citizen's abilities and talents.

On the basis of their responsibility for the destiny of socialism and internationalism two fraternal parties -- the CPSU and the PZPR -- have decided to pool their efforts in renewing the social system created in their countries under their leadership. This will be the objective pursued in implementing the provisions of the declaration on Soviet-Polish cooperation in the sphere of ideology, science, and culture signed by M.S. Gorbachev and W. Jaruzelski in Moscow the other day. This new document in the practice of interparty and interstate ties marks the higher level mutual relations the two socialist states have reached.

The declaration is crammed with many specific provisions aimed at making fuller use of our two peoples' joint intellectual potential and socialism's international experience. This applies primarily to the social sciences and to research into the way that the laws of social development operate under socialism in order to promote a resurgence in the living spirit of the great teaching of Marxism-Leninism, which, as its founders envisaged, must be constantly renewed and developed in accordance with new conditions and must march in step with the times.

Bringing our two countries' ideological cooperation closer to life and strengthening its links with the practice of socialism renewal currently being implemented -- albeit under different conditions -- in both the Soviet Union and Poland are among the primary tasks posed in the declaration. The successful resolution of these tasks is impossible without the participation of the widest sectors of the population, and this in turn is inconceivable without mass contacts among people. In other words, a deepening of the democratization process is needed in this sphere too.

As a specific document, the declaration naturally also bears the stamp of the specific relations between its two signatory countries. This particularly applies to the tasks of joint research in history. Thus, the declaration notes the need, on the basis of Marxist-Leninist positions and in accordance with the current level of knowledge, for both sides to illuminate the history of mutual relations between our two countries, parties, and peoples. All episodes, including dramatic episodes, should be clearly interpreted so as not be bequeath any unresolved problems to our children and grandchildren. [paragraph continues]

It is necessary above all to pay tribute to things that have strengthened friendship between our parties and peoples and to condemn those things that have harmed it. After all, the future and the further development of fraternal Soviet-Polish relations depend on this too.

Our two states' leaders exchanged opinions on current questions of the international policy collectively elaborated by the socialist community countries and actively implemented by each fraternal country. Special representatives of the Soviet leadership have been traveling to the capitals of the other allied states. These consultations are very important. They provide new impetus for improving collaboration among the fraternal countries.

Grasping A Historic Chance [subhead]

World politics is focusing on the questions of eliminating medium-range missiles in Europe and the two sides' operational and tactical missiles and tactical nuclear means. If the West shows the necessary political will these questions could be resolved in a very short time. This opinion is based, in particular, on the results of the recent talks in Moscow with U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz. In accordance with them, the USSR delegation at the Soviet-U.S. talks that resumed in Geneva 23 April was instructed to immediately embark together with the U.S. delegation on working out specific accords on medium-range missiles and operational and tactical missiles.

Here it shoul be explained that, since the West European NATO countries expressed fears that the elimination of both Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe would allegedly give the Soviet Union military advantages because of its operational and tactical missiles, our country announced its complete readiness to unilaterally eliminate the corresponding Soviet and U.S. missiles on the European Continent and to hold talks about similar missiles in the eastern USSR and on U.S. territory.

The Soviet delegation in Geneva was instructed to ensure that any agreement envisaged the establishment of the strictest verification -- including on-site inspection [inspeiktsiya] -- of the fulfillment of the sides' commitments.

The USSR has also proposed examining and solving the question of tactical nuclear means in Europe -- including tactical missiles -- at separate multilateral talks in accordance with the Warsaw Pact states' Budapest initiative on armed forces and conventional arms reductions on the European Continent from the Atlantic to the Urals.

As for the U.S. side, President R. Reagan has given an assurance that "the United States is returning to the talks resolved to develop the progress achieved at Secretary of State G. Shultz' meetings in Moscow." To this it was added that "although a number of central problems need to be resolved and a great deal remains to be discussed at the talks, the prospects for reaching an agreement on medium-range means have improved."

Well, it really will take great efforts and political will from both the USSR and the United States to reach agreement on the questions of nuclear disarmament. It is important, however, for the resolve and will to reach agreement to be mutual.

At the same time the President's statement refers to the problem of operational and tactical missiles, and this is termed one of the "unresolved issues."

It was on this very issue -- a question about which there could seemingly be no doubt after the authoritative statement made in Moscow -- that the capitals of a number of West European NATO countreis kicked up a terrible commotion last week. Those who until quite recently had been trying to pin the blame for the lack of progress in eliminating nuclear weapons in Europe on the Soviet Union are now openly opposing their elimination. All this looks like a shameless political striptease.

Writing about the behind-the-scenes aspect of the matter, the West German weekly VORWAERTS stated: "While U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz was sounding out in Moscow the possibility for another round in the Geneva talks between the great powers, a group of 'hawks' was preparing a stab in the back. Its aim was to wreck the last chance of achieving success in the disarmament sphere in the present decade." And VORWAERTS even named the "hawks" -- they include U.S., West German, and British politicians. But their arguments are the same: The destruction of medium-range missiles "would leave the West at the mercy of the East's advantage in short-range nuclear missiles." In turn, their destruction "would point up the Warsaw Pact's superiority" in the conventional arms sphere. And conventional arms reductions "would place NATO in a disadvantageous geostrategic position." Their conclusion is -- no disarmament!

Incidentally, let us not oversimplify matters. Not all supporters of the retention of nuclear weapons use such absurd "logic," demonstrating their reluctance or inability to eschew old ways of political thinking. The recent visit to our country by British Prime Miniter M. Thatcher provided a graphic example of a more sophisticated argument.

However, the realization of the need to eschew obsolete ideas, according to which the importance of certain states in international affairs and in the nuclear and space age depends on their military might, and the recognition of the threat to mankind posed by the very existence of nuclear weapons -- even with a view to "mutual deterrence" -- are winning over more and more people, including realistic Western politicians. They are waiting with ever-greater impatience, and demanding more and more persistently that the historic chance offered by the Soviet proposal to embark on practical nuclear arms reduction should not be wasted.

How will the current Geneva talks develop? This question is worrying many people at the moment. And not without reason. Over the last few years the world has repeatedly witnessed how the U.S. side, without running the risk of rejecting certain Soviet proposals from the outset, has subsequently backed away both from adopting the proposals and from seriously discussing them. And we have seen for ourselves how difficult it is to construct a realistic policy with the United States. Yet life and the Reykjavik experience in particular show that it is becoming more and more complicated to go back on your word in the face of the openness and consistency of Soviet policy.

Optimistic observers in the West also cite subjective factors in U.S. policy. We recall in particular how in the fall of 1984, when the election campaign with R. Reagan running for a second term was under way, the U.S. press constantly returned to the theme that if he were elected for a second term he would want to leave a good impression in history and would agree to conclude an agreement -- even a partial one -- limiting nuclear arms.

It is not discounted, however, that this topic -- patiently inspired from above -- was one of those election promises that is quickly forgotten after the elections. True, in this case it is worth noting. U.S. public opinion, of course, would also welcome a nuclear disarmament agreement. If so, has not the time come to recall this now that the President's second term is inexorably drawing to a close? This is being stated by observers, who note that a new and fruitful Soviet-U.S. summit could write a bright page in history.

U.S. ANNOUNCES 'SIXTH' NUCLEAR TEST 30 APRIL

LD291033 Moscow TASS in English 1020 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 29 TASS -- It has been officially announced here that the United States will conduct another underground nuclear test codenamed Hardin at the Nevada test site on Thursday, April 30.

Energy department spokesman Jim Boyer has said that the yield of a nuclear device is ten times as high as the one of the A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

That would be the sixth officially announced U.S. underground nuclear test since the beginning of the current year.

MOSCOW NOTES WEINBERGER 'ATTACK' AGAINST GLASNOST

LD300534 Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] The American Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's hostile attitude towards the USSR and its policies is notorious. His latest attack he mounted against glasnost, a policy of promoting the greatest openness of crucial national issues to public scrutiny. Viktor Ivanov now comments:

As he spoke in San Francisco, Mr Weinberger described glasnost in the USSR as an exercise in rhetoric. He claimed that that policy was unable to bring any practical results and said the USSR's attitude to the problems of arms limitation was an example. According to Mr Weinberger, the Soviet attitude has undergone no considerable change.

It's very likely that Mr Weinberger had in mind the basic principle the USSR is strongly committed to in matters of disarmament -- that of equality and like security, a principle it believes must be complied with under any circumstances. This means that as armaments are reduced and eliminated, no disbalance [as heard] should appear that might cause damage to the security of either side. Acting otherwise would amount to sacrificing either one's own interests or the interests of one's partners. The USSR wants equality preserved at all levels of arms reduction. Its ultimate goal is to build a nuclear weapons-free world already in this century. To achieve this goal, the Soviet Union has made serious concessions hoping that these would repay many times over. For instance, the Soviet Union has agreed to take medium-range missiles in Europe out of the disarmament package, taken into account Western fears concerning shorter-range missiles and suggested radical measures to eliminate chemical weapons. It has reviewed dramatically its attitude to NATO's zero option. Incidentally, by doing so it exposed NATO's duplicity in relations towards nuclear arms in Europe. The zero option as we see it now has been used as a means of political gambling aimed at putting a number of conditions unacceptable to the Soviet Union and then accusing it of reluctance to compromise. Now that the Soviet Union has agreed to the zero option, NATO is suddenly unprepared to carry out its own proposal. Nothing can be farther from what is known as glasnost. That was a direct deceit of public opinion in the West.

In that San Francisco speech, Mr Weinberger also accused the USSR of reluctance to reconsider its attitude towards SDI, a program for developing space weapons, and interpreted this as a lack of openness in Soviet policy. This view is biased. The current broad public discussion of disarmament and related issues, including SDI, is evidence of this. Not a single day passes without the topic being discussed in newspapers and on radio and television. There is a question the Soviet participants in the debates have repeatedly asked the United States but so far have failed to receive an answer:

However, we will not close our eyes to the fact that the international situation remains complex and is not getting any simpler. It will take an acute struggle to justify people's natural hopes for something better.

As for the Soviet Union, it is prepared to agree to a new summit, provided, of course, that it can really be crowned with specific results. Along with a treaty on medium-range missiles, a subject for agreement at such a summit could be the "key positions" proposed the other day by M.S. Gorbachev on a number of problems that are of the greatest importance not only for Soviet-U.S. relations but for improving the situation worldwide.

Peace for the Near East [subhead]

This past week full of foreign policy actions ended in Moscow with the official friendly visit by Syrian leader H. al-Asad.

Naturally, the Soviet-Syrian talks touched on the most important problems of international life. The edifice of peace, particularly in the nuclear age, cannot be sound if even part of it remains outside the scope of a security system. On this basis, the USSR is a resolute proponent of breaking the deadlock in conflict situations and the so-called regional conflicts, which the United States exploits to manipulate levels of tension and confrontation.

The Middle East region, as one of the most long-standing, involved, and bloody regional conflicts, has a special place among such conflicts. The main source of the continuation of this conflict is the expansionist policy of Israeli ruling circles supported by Washington, which continues to see the Near East as a testbed for modeling its own imperial policy.

Yet the gamble on military force in settling the Near East conflict has long been completely discredited. This must be understood by everyone, first and foremost Israeli ruling circles. Nor does the path to a settlement lie via separate deals. They can only harm and hamper a settlement.

The focus for collective efforts in this area must be the preparation of an international conference with the participation of all interested parties. A considerable portion of the international community of states now advocate convening such a conference. The permanent members of the UN Security Council could take the initiative in this matter. The Soviet Union, for its part, is prepared for fair and constructive efforts in this area on both a collective and a bilateral basis.

Recently there has been frequent talk about Soviet-Israeli relations. The absence of such relations cannot be deemed normal. However, positive movement is only conceivable in terms of the Near East settlement process.

The Soviet Union has been and continues to be in solidarity with the Arabs, who refuse to recognize the occupation of their territories. The return of these territories and the safeguarding of the Palestinians' legitimate rights is the prime goal in settling the Near East conflict. Our country categorically condemns discrimination against the Palestinian people, who are being denied their right to self-determination and the right to a homeland.

The Soviet Union expresses satisfaction that the Syrian leadership is firmly following the path of seeking a political settlement to the Near East conflict. Its activeness and prestige could be decisive factors in working out a common Arab line, which is especially important now that preparatory work for an international conference on the Near East is on the agenda.

Is it worth pouring enormous resources into the development of ever new fancy weapons only to make nuclear arms obsolete? Wouldn't it be much easier to scrap nuclear arms altogether? This is something that the Soviet Union has been calling for all along and thereby defuse a huge delayed action nuclear mine under the world and keep space free of weapons.

The American Administration has the authority to give an answer to this question. However, even if it decided to act from a position of glasnost it would have to confess that its reluctance to give up Star Wars stems from a desire to gain military supremacy and with it a first-strike capacility, something that will allow it to hold the world at ransom and without a hint at glasnost.

WASHINGTON 'NERVOUS' BEFORE 'IRANGATE' HEARINGS

LD291650 Moscow TASS in English 0817 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] New York April 29 TASS -- The closer we are to May 5, the day when open hearings on "Irangate" begin in U.S. Congress, the more nervous is the atmosphere in the White House. According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, the closest associates of the President are seriously worried over the fact that John Poindexter, former assistant to the President for national security affairs, states in private conversations and is going to reiterate it in Congress that the President knew about the diversion to Nicaraguan contras of the money coming from U.S. arms sales to Iran.

According to THE NEW YORK TIMES, new evidence to the effect that agents of the CIA and the Pentagon directly participated in arms deliveries to the contras at the time when any U.S. assistance to them was banned by law evokes equally serious concern. Spokesman of the White House admit that the evidence collected by special commissions of U.S. Congress can trigger another wave of resignations in the administration.

Washington April 29 TASS -- The Select Committee on Intelligence of the U.S. Senate has decided to again summon FBI Director William Webster for giving evidence at the hearings about his appointment to the post of CIA director. According to WASHINGTON POST, not everything is clear to the senators concerning the role of the FBI in "Irangate". In the opinion of Congress investigators, Israel could also throw light at the "Iran-contras" affair. According to Robert McFarlane, former assistant to the President on national security affairs, Israel played a key part in U.S. arms sales to Iran.

The ABC television company reported that Lawrence Walsh, special prosecutor for the "Irangate" affair, is closely connected with a law firm that fulfilled orders of the companies whose activities he is investigating at the moment. In this connection a lawyer of Poindexter said that the new information called in question the impartiality of the special prosecutor.

U.S. NAVAL EXERCISES OFF CALIFORNIA NOTED

LD250600 Moscow TASS in English 0547 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] San Francisco April 25 TASS -- Fourteen-day U.S. naval exercises, code-named Kernel Usher-87-3 have started in Camp Pendleton area off the coasts of California State by the landing of a large force. The exercises are being held with the participation of 8,000-strong Naval personnel and of the Marines. As the exercises are intended to train elements of military interference, which may be necessary in trouble areas in Third World or Middle East countries, the UPI agency said. [sentence as received]

BIRYUKOV COMMENTARY ON NAKASONE'S U.S. VISIT

OW290858 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Askold Biryukov commentary]

[Excerpts] An extremely difficult situation surrounds the upcoming visit of the Japanese leader to the United States. Domestically, Prime Minister Nakasone had a taste of defeat over a sales tax plan which he attempted to railroad in defiance of the people's opposition. In foreign affairs, Japan under the Nakasone government, has been under unprecedented pressures from the U.S. Administration and Congress in the financial, trade, and military areas.

Lately, the United States has been particularly dissatisified with offensives in the U.S. and world markets by Japan, its ally in the Far East and formidable competitor. Its imposition of 100 percent tariffs, on Japanese electronics products is only a blunt expression of that dissatisfaction. Howard Baker, chief of staff for the U.S. President, said the U.S. sanctions over Japanese semiconductors will be a major topic for the summit between Nakasone and Reagan.

The semiconductor trade, though, is not the only issue. The U.S. Government's pressure is felt by Japan over several areas of bilateral relations and world developments including military problems. [passage omitted]

It should be pointed out that the present Japan-U.S. trade war is being waged amid the continuing dollar depreciation. The dollar slide remains unabated despite the fact that the major industrial nations reached agreements on the stabilization of the U.S. dollar in Paris last year, and again in Washington last month. In the Tokyo foreign exchange market, the dollar fell to a 137-yen level, a record low since the end of World War II. Japanese financial and business communities are unable to conceal their misgivings over developments in world financial markets that have been caused by the United States. Needless to say, they are angered by the U.S. failure to fulfill international obligations. In this regard, Finance Minister Miyazawa said he does not see the present rate of the U.S. dollar as being adequate. West European authorities agree, claiming that the problem was caused by the enormous U.S. fiscal deficit.

However, the United States, accustomed to acting as a superpower, does not seem to be prepared to duly consider their opinions. As in the past, the United States is set to solve problems from a position of strength even if it means sacrificing a partner or the closest ally.

Meanwhile, what are Prime Minister Nakasone's plans to solve these problems? Judging from available the factors, he seems to be set to make concessions in the economic, military, and political areas. Amaya, former vice minister of International Trade and Industry, said Japan will make necessary concessions, that it has no other alternatives, and that Japan is weaker than the United States in a trade war.

The Liberal Democratic Party is preparing various packages for Nakasone to take to Washington, including a 5 trillion yen domestic economy stimulant and a shopping list for a variety of U.S. goods, including aircraft, ships, and supercomputers, to appeal U.S. protectionists.

Japanese official quarters unanimously say, as if they were trying to find an excuse, that the present mutual trust between the two allies, Japan and the United States, should not be shattered by economic disputes. What they mean is that Japan should open its market for U.S. goods, allow U.S. firms to take part in the new Kansai International Airport project, and agree to GATT consultations over the rice import issue.

Nakasone will also take a Japanese plan to Washington to sign an agreement on its participation in the Strategic Defense Initiative program. The Defense Agency is also preparing a plan for Nakasone to take to the Pentagon. According to Japanese newspaper reports, Director General of the Agency Kurihara already hinted at his readiness to solve the FSX -- next generation fighter-supporter -- to meet the Pentagon's request. There are also suggestions of other things being prepared to please Washington.

Judging from past experience, the Japanese Government is again convinced that it can ease Washington's anger over trade war problems by expanding and promoting its military and political cooperation with the United States.

The United States, for its part, knows very well where to push if it is to make Japan perform its role more positively under the U.S. strategic plans.

JAPANESE ENVOY SPEAKS ON NATIONAL DAY

LD292054 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 29 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Today is Japan's national festival. Taking part in our program is Yasue Katori, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Japan in the USSR.

[Begin Katori recording in Japanese with superimposed Russian translation] Esteemed television viewers, I am very pleased to greet the Soviet people once again in my position as Japanese ambassador in the USSR.

Thirty years have passed since the restoration, in 1956 of diplomatic relations between Japan and the USSR. During this period Japanese-Soviet links have been the subject of ongoing development in the economic, trade, scientific, cultural and a number of other spheres. Last October the Japan-86 trade and industrial exhibition took place in Moscow. This gave many Soviet people the opportunity to become acquainted with various aspects of the Japanese economy. In June this year the Kabuki theater is to perform in the USSR, representing the traditional art of Japan. Also in the summer of this year it is planned to open a Japanese garden in the main botanical garden of the USSR Academy of Sciences. I sincerely hope that the development of Japanese-Soviet relations in various spheres will promote the deepening of mutual understanding between our peoples.

Moreover, last year reciprocal visits by the ministers of foreign affairs of our countries took place, during which there was discussion of questions of Japanese-Soviet relations and also international problems of mutual interest.

Thus the political dialogue was resumed between the two countries. Talks were held in regard to the conclusion of a peace treaty between Japan and the USSR. An accord was reached on continuing these talks. Proceeding from the proposal for an exchange of visits by the leaders of the two countries, the question of a visit to Japan by General Secretary Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is on the agenda. I most sincerely hope that on receiving such a stimulus, the political dialogue between Japan and the USSR will be continued as a result of this visit which will bring concrete results.

I wish to stress that both sides should jointly begin implementing the most important task, the conclusion of peace treaty, having discussed the questions which, when diplomatic relations between our countries were normalized, it was envisaged would be resolved at subsequent talks, and thus established peaceful and stable relations.

In conclusion I would like, on behalf of the Japanese Government and the Japanese people to wish all of you good health, great happiness and prosperity. Thank you for your attention. [end recording]

DPRK STATEMENT ON RELATIONS WITH S. KOREA

LD271304 Moscow TASS in English 1105 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Pyongyang April 27 TASS -- Insisting on non-political negotiations, which cannot resolve the main question of relaxation of tension in the Korean peninsula, Seoul shows that it does not intend to promote normalisation of the situation in the region, says a statement of a representative of the Ministry of the People's Armed Forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which was issued here today.

The dangerous character of the current situation in Korea calls for urgent steps to be taken to reduce the level of the North-South military-political confrontation, the statement says. The DPRK, acting in this spirit, advanced a number of major initiatives last year alone.

The DPRK proposed, among other things, that exercises be not held in the period of the dialogue, that high level North-South military-political negotiations, and also negotiations between military leaders of the DPRK, the USA and South Korea be held, the statement says. The government of the Republic unilaterally took the decision to send over 150,000 servicemen of the Korean People's Army to build civil projects, the ministry says.

But the Seoul authorities, which hold pro-American positions, continue distorting the real meaning of DPRK's peaceful efforts and are building up dimensions of military preparations. Such a stand can only be detrimental to the cause of peace in the Korean peninsula, the statement says.

DRA'S NAJIBULLAH CITED AT MEETING WITH WOUNDED

PM281223 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 28 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Meeting With Fighters"]

[Text] Kabul, 27 Apr -- Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, has met with fighters of the revolution wounded in fighting the counterrevolutionary gangs. The PDPA and the DRA Government, he said, are tirelessly steering a course toward national conciliation with a view to the speediest cessation of the bloodshed.

In past months approximately 21,000 people from the ranks of the antagonistic groups have gone over to the government's side. Talks are under way with 1,100 dushman formations numbering over 100,000 men. A peaceful life has been set up in 1,100 hamlets. The second stage of elections to the local councils of people's representatives has been completed in 927 villages. Over 5,500 prisoners have been released on the basis of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium decree on a general amnesty.

Najib reported that the PDPA Central Committee Politburo has examined the question of granting medical, material, and other aid to the wounded fighters of the revolution and the families of dead servicemen.

SUCCESS OF DRA'S RECONCILIATION PLAN REPORTED

LD271112 Moscow TASS in English 1057 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul April 27 TASS -- 130 Afghans have returned from Iran to their homes in the provinces of Herat, Jowzjan and Laghman, the local press has reported. The returnees were resuming work. The government provided them with prime necessities and housing.

The course of the People's Democratic Party and the government of Afghanistan towards national reconciliation is finding greater support inside the country and outside. Ever more Afghans who have found themselves abroad for various reasons are returning home.

Those who only yesterday put up senseless resistance to government troops are now taking the side of people's government. By now more than 21,000 counter-revolutionaries have laid down arms.

ARTICLE CRITICIZES PAKISTAN'S DRA REFUGEE POLICY

PM291517 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS special correspondent Yu. Kornilov report written specially for IZVESTIYA: "Hornets' Nest. Why a Soviet Journalist Was Unable To Visit Peshawar"]

[Text] Islamabad-Karachi-Moscow -- the journey from Moscow to the capital of Pakistan -- Islamabad -- with the inevitable transfer to a PIA aircraft in Karachi takes more than 10 hours. The journey from Islamabad to Peshawar, beyond which the land of Afghanistan, scorched by the fire of war, begins, is quite short: only 90-120 minutes by car. But it transpires that it is impossible for a Soviet journalist to travel this short distance. In the Pakistani Embassy in Moscow and in official institutions in Islamabad unruffled, smooth officials responded with a curt "no" to all requests to include Peshawar on the list of cities a TASS special correspondent is allowed to visit.

What could the Pakistani authorities want to hide from "outsiders"?

If one looks at a map of Pakistan it is not hard to see that there is no other large city in this country's territory in such close proximity as Peshawar to Afghanistan and consequently to its northern neighbor -- the USSR. This is why Peshawar and its adjoining regions have long been a favorite with U.S. cirlces which regard any place on earth from one standpoint only -- whether it can be used as a military-strategic outpost for operations against the Soviet land. Let us recall that it was from this region on 1 May 1960, that the U.S. U-2 spy plane took off on its last flight before being downed by a Soviet missile over the Urals. Almost 2 decades later, when the April Revolution had been carried out in Afghanistan, the Pentagon and the CIA once again rushed to their old bridgehead to reverse by force a development of events that was not to their liking....

During the undeclared war unleashed by Washington and regional reaction against the sovereign DRA, the United States has spent more than $2 billion on aggression against Afghanistan. This vast sum has primarily "materialized" in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province and its capital -- Peshawar -- and has completely changed their appearance. People I spoke to in Islamabad told me that Peshawar, once famous for its university, historical museum, and ancient mosques, has acquired quite different, somber "landmarks" in recent years. Posts armed with U.S. heavy machineguns guard the residences of U.S. "advisers" and the headquarters of the seven largest counterrevolutionary groups calling themselves "parties," "unions," and "societies." Military barracks alternate with training grounds and concrete-reinforced arms and military equipment dumps both above and below ground. While casting a proprietorial eye over these and other facilities built with CIA dollars in the region around Peshawar, Brzezinski, former national security adviser to the U.S. President, pointed a submachinegun in the direction of people's Afghanistan.

But Peshawar and the surrounding region is not only a bridgehead where groups of anti-Afghan counterrevolutionaries equipped with the latest U.S. weapons, including "Stinger" surface-to-air missiles, are cobbled together and trained. Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province and its capital are associated in many people's minds with the "Afghan refugee" problem: There are currently approximately 3 million Afghans on Pakistani territory, according to local authorities. Islamabad misses no opportunity to emphasize its "concern" for these people: 20 km from Peshawar, in the Kachgari region, a "showpiece" refugee camp shown to high-ranking Western figures has even been set up by the authorities. The foreign visitors not only see small square houses but also shoemaking workshops "equipped at Pakistan's expense," metal-cutting tools supplied by the FRG, a sewn goods shop, and bakery. They are told that every refugee is given an "allowance" and that the camp has seven doctors, including five Pakistanis. Of course, they are also told that not one of the 30,000 inhabitants of the camp has expressed a desire to return to Afghanistan. So much for the publicity -- what is the reality?

Recently, in March, the following episode occurred in Karachi: In the noisy city bazaar, an emaciated man dressed in rags approached a DRA Consulate employee unnoticed and, thrusting a crumpled piece of paper into his hand, melted into the motley crowd. Here are a few lines from this document, which is like a howl of despair:

"For almost 7 years three of my comrades and I have been living far from our own country in conditions of poverty, hardship, and terror. Save our lives and help us to return home. We are prepared to give our blood drop by drop to be able to go home...."

"There are now as many as 50,000 Afghans in Karachi," Jalaluddin Kaveshgar, acting DRA consul general in Karachi, told me. "They are all different, quite different people." [paragraph continues]

"They include people like Sa'id Akhman, an ardent counterrevolutionary who has set up a tannery with property plundered from his former homeland and who shamelessly exploits Pakistani workers as he used to exploit Afghans. They also include another shady dealer who is well known in the city -- the 'one-armed Ratab' -- who has made a fortune by smuggling drugs he transported across the border in a hollow artificial limb. These Afghans also include the owners of motor transport offices and storekeepers; they have 'put down roots' in the local business community and hesitate over whether to leave this 'business.' However, the absolute majority of the emigres are people who have suffered a terrible, tragic fate; they left their homeland due to threats from counterrevolutionaries or simply without understanding what was happening, and the Afghan leadership's appeal to end the bloodshed together with its national reconciliation policy are a long-awaited signal for them. The way home is open!"

He fell silent and began leafing through papers on the table.

"Yes, thousands, many thousands of people in those January days literally lived in hope of soon returning home -- and what a cruel blow has been dealt to these hopes! The first groups of refugees had not even had time to leave for their country before the Pakistani authorities sealed off the bus routes and the railroad stations and began to forcibly return the Afghan passengers to the camps. Then armed dushman groups arrived from Peshawar and began physical reprisals against those who wanted to return home. Many of the refugees are aware that the Afghan Consulate is prepared to help them, but they also know something else: To enter a building flying the Afghan flag is to place your freedom, if not your life, in jeopardy. Things are not easy for us either: Recently, for example, an armed terrorist attacked Vice Consul Gholam Hasan in broad daylight and the militia did not lift a finger to protect him."

This is how matters stand in Karachi. The situation of refugees in the "main camps" located in the immediate vicinity of the counterrevolutionary headquarters is even more terrible. People I spoke to in Pakistan, who asked me to remain anonymous, showed me duplicated copies of a secret order by the leader of the so-called "Islamic Party" -- Gulbuddin Hekmatyar: Anyone who expresses the intention of returning to Afghanistan must be executed on the spot. They told me about the bloody reprisals carried out by Pakistani and dushman military patrols against people who escape from the camps. They told me that, not counting military facilities, the only new buildings to be built in Peshawar and its environs in recent years are numerous prisons the people of the city hurry past in silence. Everyone knows that people who have been declared "enemies of Islam" languish there, in lonely prison cells. They also know of the sophisticated means of torture invented by the counterrevolutionaries for those who speak out in favor of ending the armed strugle against the DRA or who simply want to return home: They pass a ring through their nose with a chain attached and, holding the end of the chain, lead the bleeding people around the prison yard....

"It is clear from the Afghan press that more than 40,000 refugees have already returned home, but all of them had to get past a great many cordons and obstacles," M.B. Nakwi, an eminent Pakistani journalist, told me. "Who is creating these obstacles? Those circles which, acting contrary to Pakistan's national interests by speculating on the 'refugee problem' and the 'Afghan problem' as a whole, count on more and more increasingly large allocations from Washington. In line with existing agreements, Pakistan receives military and economic aid from the Unted States totaling $3.2 billion, and now the U.S. Administration is prepared to give it $4 billion more over the next 6 years. Islamabad has received vast sums of money from various sources 'to improve the refugee situation.' The refugees themselves, however, have only seen a few crumbs of this; the lion's share of this 'aid' is appropriated by the totally corrupt official apparatus and lines the pockets of Pakistani generals and ringleaders of the counterrevolution...".

Back in Moscow, analyzing Western press reports on the "feats" of the dushmans based in Peshawar and the "raids" the DRA Air Force has allegedly made on Pakistani territory and so forth, I could not help noticing that the reports of U.S., British, French, and some other Western newspapers and news agencies are as alike as two peas in a pod and sometimes repeat each other almost verbatim. Why is this? My visit to Pakistan gave the answer. It transpired that the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad regularly invites Western journalists accredited to the country to closed briefings in order to "orient" them "on the Afghan problem." In other words, representatives of the Western mass media do not obtain "information" on the state of affairs in and around the DRA from primary sources and often not even from the Pakistani authorities, but from... the U.S. ambassador.

...Until a Soviet missile brought down the U-2 spy aircraft which took off from the U.S. base at Badabar close to Peshawar, no one in Pakistan other than the president and a small circle of high-ranking military personnel knew what was going on at this base or why it had been set up. Surely something similar is also happening today, when the Pentagon and U.S. special services are seizing more and more new bridgeheads in northern Pakistan behind the back of the Pakistani and international public? It goes without saying that Islamabad and those behind it who really influence Pakistan's foreign policy can bar access to Peshawar -- the main center from which counterrevolution is exported to the DRA -- to journalists from the socialist and democratic press. But they certainly cannot hide the truth from the world public about who is fueling the undeclared war against sovereign Afghanistan and how, and who is impeding national reconciliation and a political settlement of the situation surrounding this country.

U.S. SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN AGAINST DRA NOTED

LD291510 Moscow TASS in English 1307 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 29 TASS -- An official representative of the White House has confirmed the fact of receiving by President Reagan of a secret message from Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo of Pakistan on which reports appeared in the local press. He said that the letter had been handed over by Senator Gordon Humphrey. During his meeting with the president they discussed the results of the senator's recent trip to Pakistan.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST, the head of the Pakistani government offered a deal to the U.S.: in exchange for the deliveries of AWACS planes Islamabad is ready to promote a substantial activization of the terroristic actions of Afghan counterrevolutionaries. According to Islamabad, if AWACS planes are immediately sold or leased to Pakistan, the Afghan counterrevolutionaries will be specially trained to stage missile attacks on Kabul. The letter specified cynically that Islamabad referred, in the first place, to the residential areas of the Afghan capital.

The representative of the White House said that the administration had not adopted so far an official stand with regard to the Islamabad request. However, he admitted that the U.S. had displayed interest in collecting information along the Afghan-Pakistani border and agreed that it was necessary to collect reconnaissance data in that region. According to the senior administration source, the Pakistani request is being studied by the White House.

"Pakistan has asked for our help. I believe we have an obligation to do what we can given Pakistan's crucial role in the region," said Senator Humphrey, one of the most active participants in and instigators of a malicious anti-Afghan campaign unleashed in the U.S. In a conversation with journalists he emphasized that Washington should accept the proposal.

U.S. 'ENCOURAGES' PAKISTANI NUCLEAR POTENTIAL

LD291518 Moscow TASS in English 0810 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Washington April 29 TASS -- TASS correspondent Nikolay Turkatenko reports:

The U.S. actually encourages Pakistan to create its own nuclear potential. This conclusion is drawn by THE WASHINGTON POST which analyzed the policy of the Reagan administration with regard to Islamabad.

According to official information, from 1981 to 1987, i.e. at the time when the implementation of Pakistan's military nuclear program was in full swing, the U.S. rendered military and economic assistance to it to the sum of 3.2 billion dollars. Specifically, Islamabad received 40 F-16 fighter-bombers which, according to the Washington Defense Information Centre, can carry nuclear weapons.

Now the administration demands that U.S. Congress allocate another 4.2 billion dollars for military and economic assistance to Pakistan for the fiscal years of 1988-1993. Robert Peck, assistant deputy secretary of state, supported this demand before the American lawmakers. He said that along with other types of modern weapons it was planned to deliver a consignment of F-16 planes. Peck said that the question of the deliveries to Pakistan of AWACS planes was being examined, which, in his opinion, would be a logical step on the way to the buildup of Pakistan's 'defense potential.'

Although the representative of the U.S. Department of State said that the U.S. was concerned over the directions of the Pakistani nuclear program, he demanded at the same time that Congress should further refrain from applying to Pakistan the law adopted by the U.S. in 1976 which banned the rendering of any kind of assistance to a country that was coming close to the creation of its own nuclear weapons. Explaining his stand, Peck said that Pakistan continued to be an extremely important factor in the U.S. policy with regard to Afghanistan.

BRIEFS

ACCORD WITH DRA -- An agreement has been signed today in Kabul on cooperation between the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Afghanistan, and the Organization for Peace, Solidarity and Friendship with the DRA and the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society for 1987-88. This document provides for ventures to acquaint the population of Afghanistan with the social, economic, and political transformations being implemented in the USSR in conditions of restructuring and with the course of implementing the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and the peaceful Soviet foreign policy initiatives and to acquaint the peoples of the USSR with the construction of a new society in Afghanistan. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Apr 87 LD]

GROMYKO SPEAKS ON SRV RELATIONS AT ENVOY'S CEREMONY

PM291809 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "SRV Ambassador Presents Credentials"]

[Text] On 27 April A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium received in the Kremlin Nguyen Manh Cam, SRV ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the USSR, who presented his credentials.

The ambassador addressed the ceremony:

First of all allow me to convey to you, esteemed Comrade Chairman, and, through you, to the Soviet leadership and Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, sincere goodwill and very best wishes from the Vietnamese leadership and Comrade Nguyen Van Linh.

It is a great, lofty honor for me to be ambassador to the Soviet Union -- Lenin's birthplace and the country of the Great October Socialist Revolution. At the same time, it is also a very great responsibility that I have been given by our party and government at a time when a process of restructuring and renewal in every sphere of social life is urgently in progress in both countries on the basis of the historic decisions taken by the 27th CPSU Congress and the 6th Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Congress and when relations between our parties and countries are being raised to a new, qualitatively higher level.

Allow me to assure you that I will make every effort to make my own modest contribution to the task of further strengthening fraternal relations between our parties and countries.

Receiving the credentials, A.A. Gromyko said:

Relations between the Soviet Union and Vietnam have been well tested by time. This idea of testing is particularly applicable to the period when fraternal Vietnam waged a selfless struggle against the American aggressors. It displayed miracles of heroism and selflessness and gained victory.

If one takes the postwar period, our relations have constantly been on the rise. Today these relations are diverse, rich in content, and secure.

We very highly value the foreign policy of fraternal Vietnam. We value the relations you have with the people's Cambodia and the people's Laos. We value your policy regarding the contacts you are developing with other states, particularly with Eastern states. A great Asian country -- India -- should be highlighted in particular.

We are sure you conduct a sensible, well reasoned policy in issues concerning relations with the ASEAN countries. Although you have formed different ties with different countries in this group of states, we are sure your principled course aimed at goodneighborliness is well founded.

Your opinion carries weight in the United Nations. You speak out boldly in support of a course aimed at peace and detente. We are in solidarity with you in this.

I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the Soviet leadership to express gratitude to the SRV and its leadership for supporting our policy of peace and disarmament and also for supporting the initiatives we have put forward in the international arena which have been particularly clearly and convincingly presented in the corresponding speeches by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. We thank you for this support.

I would like to particularly emphasize the significance of the relations formed between the CPSU leadership and the CPV leadership. It has long been the practice for them to closely cooperate and exchange opinions not only on issues concerning bilateral relations but also on international problems with reference to the situation in the Asian and Pacific region.

An exceptionally effective method of exchanging opinions and coordinating our corresponding positions is for Soviet party and state figures to visit Vietnam and Vietnamese party and state figures to visit the Soviet Union.

I would like to assure you that, as ambassador, you will always find the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and all Soviet institutions to be of assistance in the fulfillment of your responsible and esteemed functions.

Nguyen Manh Cam presented to A.A. Gromyko members of the SRV embassy who had come to present their credentials to the Kremlin.

A warm, friendly conversation then took place between A.A. Gromyko and Nguyen Manh Cam, in which T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and I.A. Rogachev, USSR deputy foreign minister, participated.

USSR EMBASSY DENIES AIDING REBELS IN PHILIPPINES

HK281021 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 28 Apr 87 pp 1, 15

[Text] A Soviet Embassy spokesman described yesterday as "irresponsible" claims by a U.S. military commander that the Soviet Union was aiding with arms communist insurgents in the Philippines.

In a statement released by the Manila office of the NOVOSTI press agency, Victor V. Samoilenko said the claims of Admiral James Lyons, U.S. Pacific Flet commander, were "not substantiated by any facts."

Lyons, in a press interview Saturday onboard the USS Mercy, a hospital ship, in Zamboanga City, accused the Soviet Union of extending material assistance to rebels and leftist organizations in the Philippines.

"I have no doubt in my mind that the Soviet Union is aiding the rebels" in the Philippines, he said.

The USS Mercy has been visiting some key areas in the country, extending "humanitarian" medical services to Filipinos.

Samoilenko said Lyons' statement "is a product of the admiral's morbid imagination and represents an example of outdated Cold War and militaristic mentality."

"It is contrary to internationally accepted practice of relations between sovereign states to use the territory of a third country for hostile propaganda against each other," he said.

He added: "It is a pity that the USS Mercy is used not only to treat sick people, but also to poison the minds of the people by disseminating black propaganda and stirring up hatred against the Soviet Union."

The Soviet Embassy spokesman said that even Philippine Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos had recently stated that there is no proof to link the Soviet Union to the communist guerillas in the country.

"One can also wonder why Admiral Lyons is trying to discredit friendly, truthful, and mutually beneficial cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Philippines," he said.

Admiral Lyons' statement "is clearly an interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of the Philippines," he said.

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON ATANASOV VISIT

PM291757 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 29 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

["Joint Communique on the Official Friendly Visit to the USSR by G. Atanasov, BCP Central Committee Politburo member and Chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers" -- PRAVDA headline]

[Text] G. Atanasov, BCP Central Committee Politburo member and chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, paid an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union 27-28 April 1987 at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

During their stay in the USSR, G. Atanasov and those accompanying him were given a cordial, hearty welcome.

M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, received G. Atanasov, who conveyed greetings and best wishes from T. Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council. For his part M.S. Gorbachev conveyed cordial greetings and best wishes to T. Zhivkov. M.S. Gorbachev briefed the chairman of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers on the realization of the 27th CPSU Congress and Central Committee January Plenum decisions aimed at accelerating the country's socioeconomic development and restructuring all aspects of life in Soviet society. G. Atanasov spoke about the course of socialist building in Bulgaria and the implementation of the strategic policy of the 13th BCP Congress of qualitatively new growth in all spheres of the country's social life. G. Atanasov pointed out that the BCP and the Bulgarian people actively support the CPSU's creative and consistent activity aimed at fulfilling the 27th CPSU Congress decisions and emphasized the high assessment they make of the guidelines and decisions of the historic CPSU Central Committee January Plenum. Questions of the state and further deepening of Soviet-Bulgarian relations were examined, as well as urgent problems of the contemporary international situation.

The Bulgarian head of government visited the V.I. Lenin Mausoleum and laid a wreath. Wreaths were also laid at the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior by the Kremlin Wall and the monument to G. Dimitrov.

G. Atanasov familiarized himself with the labor achievements of the collective of the "All-Union Scientific Research Institute of the Cable Industry" Science-and-Production Association.

Talks were held between N.I. Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and G. Atanasov in a warm and friendly atmosphere, in a spirit of complete mutual understanding.

The heads of government voiced profound satisfaction with the steady strengthening of relations of fraternal friendship and all-around cooperation between the two countries and peoples, which are founded on the unshakable principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism and the provisions of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance Between the USSR and Bulgaria.

It was emphasized that the meetings and talks between M.S. Gorbachev and T. Zhivkov and the accords reached at them give a strong boost to the further deepening and improvement of Soviet-Bulgarian cooperation in all spheres. The programs elaborated by the CPSU and the BCP for accelerating the socioeconomic development of the USSR and Bulgaria create favorable conditions for introducing the most progressive new forms of economic, scientific, and technical ties between our countries. [paragraph continues]

In this connection note was taken of the importance of implementing measures stemming from the results of the Moscow working meeting of leaders of the socialist CEMA countries' fraternal parties, which are of exceptional significance for further deepening relations in the economic sphere, enhancing the peoples' well-being, and increasingly fully revealing the creative potential of socialism.

The sides confirmed their readiness to continue developing the processes of socialist economic integration and to implement measures to fulfill the Long-Term Program for the Development of Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation Between the USSR and Bulgaria Through the Year 2000. The realization of a whole number of intergovernmental and sectorial agreements in accordance with this program is a weighty contribution to implementing the CPSU and BCP policy of the dynamic development of our countries' national economies and raising the working people's living standards on this basis.

The great significance of conducting joint work on fulfilling the tasks stemming from the Comprehensive Program for CEMA Countries' Scientific and Technical Progress Through the Year 2000 was confirmed. Attention was drawn to the need for Soviet and Bulgarian organizations to take additional measures to enhance the technical standard and quality of products supplied by either side, as well as for the timely fulfillment of adopted pledges.

During an examination of questions of further enhancing the efficiency of the use of the two countries' economic and scientific reserves a unanimous opinion was voiced on the importance of developing direct ties between Soviet and Bulgarian enterprises, associations, and planning and design and scientific research organizations, which help to shape stable production, scientific, and technical collaboration between the USSR and Bulgaria. The great significance of creating joint industrial enterprises and science-and-production associations, whose initial work experience convincingly attests to the promising nature of such a form of cooperation, was also noted. The mutual desire to continue work on the further creation of joint enterprises and international associations and organizations in various sectors of physical production in the USSR and Bulgaria was emphasized.

An intergovernmental agreement was signed on the creation of a Soviet-Bulgarian international association between the Novokramatorskiy Machine-Building Plant (USSR) and the heavy machine-building combine in the city of Radomir (Bulgaria).

A high assessment was made of the state of Soviet-Bulgarian cultural and scientific cooperation, which is being enriched with new forms and substance year after year. This cooperation is greatly assisted by the broad ties established between public representatives in both countries, between cultural and art establishments, between scientific, trade union, youth, and tourist organizations, and also between friendship societies. The sides further advocated enhancing the efficiency of scientific ties and ensuring favorable conditions for their expansion.

During the discussion of questions of the contemporary international situation the heads of government voiced grave concern at the actions of the United States, which, disregarding the realities of the nuclear age, refuses to embark on the path of curbing the arms race, preventing its spread into space, and ending nuclear tests. The U.S. SDI program poses a special threat to strategic stability and international security. The elaboration of projects like the "European defense initiative" also cannot fail to arouse concern.

In examining ways to resolve the fundamental question of the day -- mankind's defense against nuclear catastrophe -- the sides noted the historic significance of the program for the phased elimination of all nuclear arms and other means of mass destruction by the end of the century, which was advanced in the International Year of Peace in M.S. Gorbachev's statement of 15 January 1986. [paragraph continues]

Bulgaria fully supports this program, as well as subsequent Soviet Union foreign policy initiatives and proposals which are being pursued with great activeness, realism, and high responsibility. In this connection special emphasis was placed on the Soviet proposals to conclude agreements on medium-range missiles and also on operational and tactical missiles in Europe and to elaborate "key provisions" of agreements on strategic offensive arms, space, and also nuclear tests. Solving these questions would be a major step forward with a view to radical reductions and the subsequent elimination of all nuclear means and ensuring peaceful space above our planet.

Both sides once again draw the attention of the CSCE participant states to the fact that the realization of the Warsaw Pact countries' Budapest program, which proposes resolving questions of reducing armed forces and conventional arms in a package with tactical nuclear arms, would help to reduce military confrontation in Europe.

They consistently advocate the speediest elaboration of an international convention which will effectively ensure a total ban everywhere on the development and production of chemical weapons and the elimination of all their stocks in the very near future. The Bulgarian side hailed the Soviet Union's ending of chemical weapons production.

The sides noted the great significance of elaborating efficient verification measures, including on-site inspection.

The heads of government devoted serious attention to the state of affairs on the European Continent. They resolutely advocated continuing the all-European process. In this connection it was pointed out that the Vienna meeting of CSCE participant states' representatives can play an important role in strengthening detente in Europe by adopting a decision to supplement the Stockholm conference's mandate so that, in addition to the further development and strengthening of confidence- and security-building measures, it can also proceed to an examination of disarmament questions, including the reduction of armed forces and conventional arms from the Atlantic to the Urals.

The Soviet side noted Bulgaria's active role in strengthening security, stability, and mutual confidence in Europe. The Soviet Union wholly supports Bulgaria's efforts aimed at creating a zone free from nuclear and chemical weapons in the Balkans and developing good-neighborliness, and strengthening peace in that region.

During an exchange of opinions on other urgent international questions, the heads of government voiced grave concern at the preservation of conflicts and crisis situations in the Near and Middle East, Southern Africa, Central America, and other parts of the globe and confirmed their principled position on the need for a collective search for ways to resolve them.

The sides expressed firm support for the policy of national reconciliation pursued by the Afghan leadership and for the efforts aimed at building a sovereign, independent, and nonaligned Afghanistan. In their opinion, a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan on the basis of the cessation and the guaranteed nonresumption of external interference is possible, and achieving this would accord with the fundamental interests of ensuring peace and security in that region.

The heads of government emphasized their complete unity of views on all basic questions of world politics and voiced the determination of the USSR and Bulgaria to continue cooperating actively with other fraternal socialist countries, including within the framework of the Warsaw Pact Organization and CEMA.

Profound satisfaction was expressed with the fruitful and useful results of the talks.

On behalf of the BCP Central Committee and the Bulgarian Government, G. Atanasov invited N.I. Ryzhkov to pay an official friendly visit to Bulgaria at a time convenient to him. The invitation was gratefully accepted.

REPORT ON YELTSIN MEETING WITH BCP LEADERS

PM271502 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Moscow CPSU Gorkom Delegation in Sofia"]

[Text] Sofia, 24 Apr — Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the BCP Central Committee and chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, today received B.N. Yeltsin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of Moscow CPSU Gorkom, who is head of a Moscow CPSU Gorkom delegation which has arrived here at the invitation of Sofia City BCP Committee.

At the meeting, which took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere, there was an exchange of information on the tasks the CPSU and the BCP are tackling at the present stage of the development of the socialist society in the USSR and Bulgaria. In the international sphere, emphasis was placed on the novel, constructive spirit, and initiative on the part of the USSR, Bulgaria, and the other socialist community countries in their approach to the resolution of world and regional problems and the implementation of a real nuclear disarmament program.

B.N. Yeltsin spoke of the activity of Soviet Communists and working people in fulfilling the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum aimed at implementing the strategic course of accelerating the country's socioeconomic development and greeting the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution in a fitting manner.

T. Zhivkov briefed the guest on the most important tasks of the country's socioeconomic development in fulfilling the decisions of the 13th BCP Congress and the BCP Central Committee December Plenum in order to achieve fundamental new growth in all spheres of life. He stressed that Bulgarian Communists and the party and state leadership wholeheartedly support the line of restructuring and the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum, which offer the opportunity still more fully to uncover the advantages of the socialist social system for the Soviet people's benefit. On behalf of all the Bulgarian people, he expressed full support for the constructive and dynamic peace policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state.

At the meeting, emphasis was placed on the historic significance of the fraternal friendship between the Soviet and Bulgarian peoples. The processes of all-around cooperation and rapprochement between the USSR and Bulgaria and of raising them to a qualitatively new level was also stressed. The important role and contribution of party committees, communists, and working people in Moscow and Sofia and in their further development and enrichment was emphasized.

Taking part in the meeting were I. Panev, BCP Central Committee member and first secretary of Sofia City BCP Committee, and L.I. Grekov, USSR ambassador to Bulgaria.

The Moscow CPSU Gorkom delegation headed by B.N. Yeltsin met with Ch. Aleksandrov, BCP Central Committee Politburo member and Central Committee secretary; D. Stanishev, secretary of the BCP Central Committee; and I. Panev. The sides displayed great interest in the study of mutual experience and exchange of opinions on the most important problems of the life and activity of the capitals' party organizations. The head of the Moscow CPSU Gorkom delegation noted that the restructuring taking place in the USSR and Bulgaria is similar in many of its principles and goals. Therefore the opportunity to study the Bulgarian comrades' experience is of great interest, especially in the economic sphere.

The delegation had a meeting with Sofia City BCP Committee Bureau members, secretaries of the okrug BCP committee, and workers from the city comittee apparatus.

The members of the delegation laid a wreath at the G. Dimitrov Mausoleum and flowers at the V.I. Lenin monument in central Sofia.

RESPONSE TO SFRY BALKAN MEETING PROPOSAL 'POSITIVE'

LD292130 Moscow TASS in English 1350 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Belgrade April 29 TASS -- The initiative put forward by Yugoslavia on holding a meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan countries has met with positive response in the region, the TANJUG news agency reports. The first reaction to Yugoslavia's proposal shows that the meeting can be instrumental in consolidating cooperation in the interests of peoples of the Balkan countries.

It is believed in the political circles of Yugoslavia that talks of foreign ministers should give an impetus to the consolidation of trust and stability in the region. Yugoslavia is interested in the expansion of versatile cooperation on a bilateral and multilateral basis with all the Balkan countries, TANJUG pointed out.

LCY CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM STRESSES 'UNITY'

LD292133 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] An LCY Central Committee plenum has been held in Belgrade. Our correspondent Aleksandr Shakin reports from the Yugoslav capital:

[Shakin] What is the quickest way out of the crisis? To put it briefly, that was how the main question was posed at the LCY Central Committee plenum which concluded in Belgrade today.

The plenum, which was given the title "Ideological" in the press, was held in a complex situation -- large foreign debts, growing inflation, lower living standards, unemployment, and problems in relations between ethnic groups. As stated at the plenum, the LC bears the largest responsibility for solving these problems.

The speeches by the Central Committee members -- and every third participant in the plenum spoke from the rostrum -- were very self-critical in nature. Ideological unity has weakened in the LC, and without this it cannot fulfill its vanguard tasks. Differences exist in the approaches to the theory and practice of the very strategy of social development.

LC unity is an essential condition for a way out of the crisis -- such was the general view of the participants in the debates. A lot of work remains to be done in developing democracy and openness [glasnost] within the party and society and in increasing responsibility, first and foremost in leading posts.

The destiny of socialism in Yugoslavia depends on LC unity, said Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Serbian LC presidium.

The plenum has become a step toward strengthening the unity of party ranks.

FURTHER ON SHEVARDNADZE-CHNOUPEK MEETING

PM281437 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 27 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading: "Conversations Held"]

[Text] On the evening of 25 April, E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, met with B. Chnoupek, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and CSSR foreign minister, who made a brief stopover in Moscow en route to Kabul.

During their conversation, the ministers expressed deep satisfaction at deepening Soviet-Czechoslovak cooperation in all spheres. The recent official friendly visit to the CSSR by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and his talks with G. Husak, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and president of the CSSR, and other Czechoslovak leaders demonstrated the joint desire of Soviet and Czechoslovak Communists and the peoples of the two countries to raise the whole range of this cooperation to a new and higher level.

The resolve to deepen the unity and cohesiveness of the socialist community countries and collaboration among Warsaw Pact states in the struggle for peace and social progress was stressed.

During their discussion of international problems attention was focused on questions of ending the arms race and creating an all-embracing system of peace and international security. The sides confirmed their desire to persistently strive to implement the specific collective measures designed to advance the Budapest initiative on reducing armed forces and armaments in Europe and developing the all-European process elaborated at the Moscow session of the Warsaw Pact Foreign Ministers Committee.

E.A. Shevardnadze and B. Chnoupek stressed the urgency of concluding an agreement eliminating Soviet and U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe and reaching an accord on operational and tactical missiles and the need to clear Europe of nuclear weapons and begin a real process of demilitarizing the continent.

The special significance of the CSSR and GDR initiatives to set up in Europe a nuclear-free corridor and zone free from chemical weapons was noted. The hope was expressed that all European states, particularly NATO members, will make their contribution in this direction.

In this regard both sides again pointed out the importance of a constructive approach to the complex and mutually dependent realities of the present-day world in the interests of strengthening general security.

The conversation proceeded in a cordial, comradely atmosphere and demonstrated complete identity of views on all questions under discussion.

GROMYKO LAUDS CSSR TIES AS AMBASSADOR DEPARTS

PM291331 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Order for Ambassador"]

[Text] On 22 April in the Kremlin, A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, presented Miroslav Zavadil, CSSR ambassador to the Soviet Union, with the Order of the People's Friendship. He was awarded the order for his great work in strengthening friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the CSSR. The ambassador will finish work in Moscow in the next few days and leave for home.

Accepting the high USSR state award, M. Zavadil expressed gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium for their high assessment of his work in the Soviet Union.

In his speech A.A. Gromyko stated:

We all observed with enormous attention Czechoslovakia's reception of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He was received in an excellent manner, like a great friend. This reception expressed the Czechoslovak people's thoughts and feelings. We believed and still believe that these feelings apply to our entire country and people. This was reflected in each of the meetings broadcast on television.

Our people proceed on the basis that there can be no relations between the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia or between the CPSU and the CPCZ other than relations of fraternal friendship. These friendly feelings were shown with great force during M.S. Gorbachev's visit to Czechoslovakia.

Foreign policy is a huge arena for cooperation between our countries. We can say with pride that we are proceeding hand in hand with the other Warsaw Pact socialist states. The coordination of our foreign policy steps presents no difficulties for either of us. We both feel the same on foreign policy issues.

We are grateful for your support for our foreign policy initiatives. For our part, you can be assured of our support in backing proposals put forward by Czechoslovakia. You will always sense our comradeship on such matters.

We do not yet know how the discussion and examination of out recent proposals will end. I say out proposals because they were submitted on behalf of the Soviet Union. But they are essentially our joint proposals, coordinated with you and with the other fraternal countries.

The situation is not simple. We are doing everything to reach agreement with the United States on these proposals -- talks on eliminating corresponding types of nuclear arms in Europe are in the offing.

Together with you and the other fraternal countries we will continue the struggle for peace. Our domestic development is also aimed at this. Foreign and domestic policy are firmly welded together in the USSR's life. Everything we do inside the country is reflected and cannot fail to be reflected in our external activity. Our peace-loving aims in foreign affairs accord with the fundamental, one might say revolutionary, changes taking place in the Soviet Union.

We wish you, Comrade Zavadil, every success in your new work. We congratulate you on your well-deserved award -- the Soviet Order of the Peoples' Friendship.

After the award presentation, A.A. Gromyko and M. Zavadil had a warm and friendly talk, in which S.A. Shalayev, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the AUCCTU, and T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, took part.

Ambassador, Shevardnadze Meet

PM281031 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "In Connection with Departure for Home"]

[Text] On 25 April, E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister, received M. Zavadil, member of the CPCZ Central Committee and Czechoslovak ambassador to the Soviet Union, in connection with his final departure for home.

In the conversation, which was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and complete mutual understanding, both sides expressed satisfaction with the state of Soviet-Czechoslovak relations, which have entered a qualitatively new stage of their development. The accords reached between M.S. Gorbachev and G. Husak during the recent official friendly visit to the CSSR by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee have given powerful impetus to the further improvement of these relations.

The sides stressed their determination to contribute in every possible way to strengthening the unity of the socialist community countries, enhancing efficiency and collaboration within the Warsaw Pact and CEMA, and increasing efforts to avert a nuclear catastrophe and ensure normal external conditions for the peoples; peaceful labor.

E.A. Shevardnadze highly appraised M. Zavadil's contribution to strengthening friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the USSR and CSSR and warmly congratulated him on his election as member of the CPCZ Central Committee Secretariat and chairman of the CSSR Central Trade Union Council. On the same day E.A. Shevardnadze held a dinner in honor of M. Zavadil.

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GDR OFFICIAL HONORED -- For his contribution to developing friendship and cooperation between the GDR and the Soviet Union, and in connection with his 60th birthday, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has awarded Werner Jarowinsky, SED Central Committee Politburo member, secretary of the party Central Committee, the Order of the Friendship of Peoples. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 24 Apr 87 LD]

ROUNDTABLE WITH ROMANIA -- A roundtable meeting of Soviet and Romanian economists has taken place in Bucharest. They discussed issues related to the implementation of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, and the 13th RCP Congress in the field of the economic and social development of the two countries. During the meeting, theoretical and practical problems of restructuring the economic mechanism were considered. The Romanian scholars shared their experience of solving problems of intensification of production, improving the quality of output, conserving resources, application of the new financial and economic mechanism drawn up at the end of the seventies, and the development of the self-financing and self-management system. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2200 GMT 29 Apr 87 LD]

TASS REPORTS CHIRAC TO VISIT MOSCOW IN MID-MAY

LD300951 Moscow TASS in English 0927 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 30 TASS -- The Prime Minister of France Jacques Chirac will pay an official visit to the USSR in mid-May at the Soviet Government's invitation.

U.S. TO REDEPLOY F-16 FIGHTER-BOMBERS TO FRG

LD112211 Moscow TASS in English 2017 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Bonn April 11 TASS -- The United States decided without the knowledge of the West German Government to deploy to the Federal Republic an additional 79 F-16 fighter-bombers. The DPA news agency reported on Saturday, quoting the well-informed magazine DER SPIEGEL, that the planes were going to be redeployed to West Germany from the U.S. Air Force base Torrejon de Ardos near the Spanish capital. According to Western experts, the F-16 has a range of about 4,000 kilometres and can carry nuclear weapons.

TASS CLAIMS U.S. DEPLOYING NEUTRON WEAPONS IN FRG

LD290853 Moscow TASS in English 0839 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Bonn April 29 TASS -- Amid tight secrecy the U.S. Administration has been deploying neutron weapons of the latest type in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany for a long time now. This fact, which was kept secret from the public, was disclosed at a press conference given in Mainz by the Rheinland Pfalz organisation of the German Communist Party.

It said it had in possession information that one hundred neutron warheads for howitzers have already been delivered to the U.S. airforce base in Ramstein. The German Communist Party urged the Rheinland Pfalz Government to denounce the move to install the neutron weapons and demand that they be removed from the territory of that land.

Washington had already made attempts to force this barbarian weapon on its European NATO allies several years ago, but the powerful public movement prevented those ominous plans from being carried through.

PUGO-LED CPSU DELEGATION ARRIVES IN DENMARK

LD151829 Moscow TASS in English 1422 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Copenhagen April 14 TASS -- A CPSU delegation led by Boris Pugo, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Latvia, arrived here today to attend the 28th Congress of the Communist Party of Denmark (DKP).

The delegation was greeted at the airport by Ib Noerlund, secretary of the DKP Central Committee, and other members of the party leadership.

Addresses Danish CP

LD171938 Moscow TASS in English 1826 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Copenhagen April 17 TASS -- "There are forces in the West that do not wish to see Europe nuclear-free. Joint efforts of political parties, public movements, and peoples of all countries in favour of elaborating as soon as possible and concluding an agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe are particularly essential in these conditions", said Boris Pugo, member of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Communist Party of Latvia.

He spoke on Thursday at the current 28th Congress of the Danish Communist Party (DKP) here. Boris Pugo is heading the CPSU delegation at the DKP Congress.

"Together with other socialist countries", Boris Pugo said, "the USSR made bold and large-scale steps in the field of confidence-building measures, radical cut-downs in conventional arms and armed forces in Europe, and in the issue of banning and eliminating chemical weapons. The new Soviet initiatives proposed by Mikhail Gorbachev in Prague have attracted universal attention".

"The specific plan for the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe, the plan which the Soviet Union suggested recently, could become the first step towards ridding Europe of nuclear weapons", the leader of the Soviet delegation pointed out.

"However, our proposals", he said, "have been overgrown with a whole package of conditions and linkage. With a view to facilitating the conclusion of an agreement on medium-range missiles in Europe without delay, the Soviet Union, as Mikhail Gorbachev stated, is ready to conduct talks on a radical reduction in and, ultimately, complete elimination of shorter-range missiles as well".

PRAVDA Carries CPSU Message

PM161523 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 87 Second Edition p 1

[CPSU Central Committee message to the 28th Danish Communist Party Congress -- date not given]

[Text] To the 28th Danish Communist Part [DKP] Congress.

Dear Comrades!

The CPSU Central Committee warmly greets the delegates to the 28th DKP Congress and wishes the congress success in its work.

Soviet Communists have a sincere affection for your party and are following its activities in defense of the vital interests of its country's working people and their social and democratic rights. We have a high opinion of the Danish Communists' contribution to the struggle of all Danish peace-loving forces for a Danish policy of relaxing international tension, maintaining peace and stability in Northern Europe, and creating a nuclear-free zone in that region.

The 27th CPSU Congress' strategic course toward accelerating our country's economic and social development and comprehensively strengthening socialism is part and parcel of the CPSU and Soviet state policy to establish an all-embracing system of international security in the interests of the cardinal solution of problems of war and peace and nuclear disarmament. The entire course of the development of the situation since Reykjavik has shown that vigorous efforts by the peoples and governments of countries great and small, political parties, and broad public circles are the only way to achieve a nuclear-free world and ensure the survival of mankind.

Our parties are carrying out their activities in different conditions, but they are united by ties of internationalist solidarity and the struggle for the common goals of communists -- peace and socialism.

We express confidence your congress will be an important stage in rallying the DKP ranks, widening its social base, and strengthening links with the masses in the interests of the struggle for peace, democracy, and social progress.

Long live the Danish Communist Party!

May friendship and cooperation between the Soviet and Danish peoples strengthen.

The CPSU Central Committee

IRISH PRIME MINISTER CONGRATULATED ON ELECTION

PM291817 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report" "Telegrams Exchanged"]

[Text] The USSR Council of Ministers has sent a telegram to Charles Haughey expressing congratulations and wishes of success for his election as Irish Prime Minister.

C. Haughey expressed his gratitude for the congratulations in an answering telegram.

Both telegrams express the hope that Soviet-Irish cooperation will continue to develop in the interests of both countries' peoples.

IRISH CP DELEGATION VISITS LITHUANIA, MOSCOW

PM291415 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Delegation's Stay"]

[Text] A delegation of Irish Communists headed by M. O'Riordan, chairman of the Communist Party of Ireland, visited the Soviet Union 17-23 April. The delegation comprised D. Rioch [name as published], D. Montgomery, and R. O'Reilly, members of the Communist Party of Ireland National Executive Committee.

The Irish guests visited the Lithuanian SSR, where they had a meeting with P.P. Grishkyavichus, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, and other leaders of the republic. The Irish comrades were briefed on the work under way in the republic to fulfill the 27th CPSU Congress decisions and the CPSU Central Committee January (1987) Plenum decisions, on the course of restructuring, and on the achievements and the problems that arise in this work.

The delegation visited a number of industrial enterprises, familiarized itself with the running of agriculture, and met with the party and economic aktiv.

The delegation was received at the CPSU Central Committee International Department. It expressed gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee for its fraternal solidarity with the Irish Communists' struggle and emphasized the tremendous significance of the changes taking place in the Soviet Union for revolutionaries and democrats throughout the world.

The delegation participated in the ceremony in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses devoted to the 117th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth.

PRAVDA ASSESSES MOTIVES FOR HOWE VISIT TO ASIA

PM291807 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 87 Second Edition p 5

[Vsevolod Ovchinnikov "Commentator's Column": "On the Way Back?"]

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe has completed a trip to Asia and the Pacific. He visited Thailand, Australia, and New Zealand. It is noteworthy that a few weeks before Howe's visit, British Defense Secretary George Younger also went to Thailand as well as three other Southeast Asian countries (Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei). Both the itineraries and the thrust of the talks held there demonstrate an increasingly perceptible desire to restore the British military presence east of Suez in one form or another. By all accounts, this new trend is the result both of London's imperial pretensions and Washington's global strategy.

I recall that after the decision to reduce the British presence "east of Suez" was made, London prudently concluded in 1971 a five-country agreement on military cooperation in the defense of the Strait of Malacca. Its members, apart from Britain, are Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand. Now London is in favor of activating those ties and also of involving Brunei in them. Is this not to compensate in some way for the loss of Britain's position in Hong Kong, which is soon to come under Chinese sovereignty? (Brunei is situated on the opposite side of the South China Sea).

Perhaps an even more important aim for London's envoys is to counter the antinuclear feelings in the South Pacific and recently within the ASEAN countries, too. Actions opposed to foreign bases are broadening in the Philippines. Indonesia and Malaysia are campaigning for a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia. After the effective collapse of the ANZUS bloc because of New Zealand's refusal to allow ships carrying nuclear weapons into its ports the country has maintained its military ties with the West only within the aforementioned five-country agreement. A decision following New Zealand's example has been announced by the Fijian Government that came to power after the recent elections. (Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands had done this even earlier).

In this situation London is persistently warning Australia and New Zealand about "Soviet penetration." Moscow's only thoughts, it is alleged, are of how to create bases for its nuclear fleet on the Pacific islands.

But as Australia's NATIONAL TIMES newspaper has rightly noted, G. Howe's warnings about this threat would carry far greater weight were Britain to accede to the Rarotonga Treaty on a nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific or were the Soviet Union to abandon it. As we know, the facts are the exact opposite.

FINLAND'S KOIVISTO RECEIVES SPECIAL ENVOY

LD281650 Moscow TASS in English 1235 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Helsinki 28 Apr (TASS) -- M. Koivisto, president of the Finnish Republic, today received Soviet special representative Yu.S. Deryabin and V.M. Sobolev, the USSR's ambassador to Finland. During the conversation that took place the discussion covered topical problems connected with the new initiatives from the Soviet Union on medium-range missiles and on European security, as put forward by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Prague and in conversation with U.S. Secretary of State G. Shultz. A high appraisal was given by the Finnish side to the USSR's proposals, which open up a realistic path for reduction of nuclear arsenals in Europe. The Soviet representative also had a conversation with Prime Minister K. Sorsa and Foreign Minister P. Vayrynen. Soviet-Finnish consultations also took place on issues of the Vienna meeting of representatives of the CSCE states.

ICELANDIC PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES SPECIAL ENVOY

LD281657 Moscow TASS in English 1532 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Reykjavik April 28 TASS -- Icelandic Prime Minister Steingrimur Hermannsson received ambassador Andrey Aleksandrov, a special representative of the USSR, and Igor Krasavin, USSR Ambassador to Iceland.

The prime minister was informed of the recent Soviet foreign policy initiatives and the results of the talks and negotiations of the Soviet leaders with U.S. State Secretary George Shultz.

Steingrimur Hermannsson expressed gratitude for the received information, favoured an end to the arms race, liberation of the world from nuclear weapons and acclaimed the Soviet efforts taken in this direction.

UK FIRM CONCLUDES CONTRACT WITH CHEMICAL FIRM

PM160937 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 5

[V. Mikheyev report: "Cooperation under the Sign of Mercury"]

[Text] The Moscow mission of the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce, which was ceremonially opened 31 March by Prime Minister M. Thatcher during her visit to the USSR, has started fulfilling its mediating role. On 9 April a contract was signed here between the British Courtaulds company and the Soyuzkhimeksport foreign trade association's Monokhim firm, which has recently been placed under the jurisdiction of the USSR Ministry of the Chemical Industry.

Under the contract Monokhim will deliver acrylonitrile fiber worth more than 1/2 million pounds sterling to Britain. "Unlike methanol or ammonia, acrylonitrile is a highly processed material," A.V. Timofeyev, a representative of the Monokhim firm, told me. "It is a semi-finished product, and therefore it cannot be said that we are supplying merely raw materials." The Soviet side firmly intends to develop its ties with the Courtaulds company, and it is interested not just in selling but also buying from its English partners.

"Courtaulds has been active in the Soviet market for 30 years," David Clark, one of the company's executives, emphasized. "We have been importing Soviet cotton and buying chemical raw materials and semi-finished products for a long time. We see a promising future for cooperation in the production of plastics and cellophane for packaging, especially of food products. We are pleased to have been able to conclude our first contract this year with the newly opened Moscow office of the British-Soviet Chamber of Commerce. I would like to mention especially that we at Courtaulds regard ourselves as 'old hands' in bilateral trade and economic partnership."

It remains to be added that although the present agreement does not differ substantially from previous ones (similar contracts have been concluded over the past 5 years), its significance must be linked with plans to increase the volume of Soviet-British trade cooperation that were agreed during the British head of government's visit to the USSR and also with the intentions of the businessmen from the banks of the Thames to climb higher in the hierarchy of major Soviet trade partners. "I believe this can be achieved," D. Clark said. "Miracles do not happen; therefore there is only one way -- steady, persistent efforts."

BRIEFS

OIL ACCORD WITH FINLAND -- The Finnish state-owned oil concern Neste has agreed with its Soviet supplier on the purchase of at least 3 million metric tonnes of Soviet crude. The deal was signed by the two concerns in Helsinki over the weekend. They also reached agreement on a new price mechanism aimed at reducing the negative effects of fluctuations on world markets. Last year Finnish-Soviet trade, which is based on a clearing system whereby the value of imports and exports has to roughly match, was thrown badly out of balance due to a crash in the price of Soviet crude in line with the fall in international oil prices. The current agreement between Neste and its Soviet supplier allows for considerable amounts of trading oil to be sold by Neste abroad. [Text] [Helsinki International Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Apr 87 LD]

REPORTAGE ON PETROVSKIY'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT

Views Regional Issues

LD191530 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1429 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, 19 April, (KUNA) -- Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy said that Kuwait followed a moderate and balanced policy regarding all Arab, regional, and international issues, and considered this [word indistinct] the best indication of the way foreign relations and peaceful coexistence should be practiced in our complex world.

At a news conference at his country's ambassadorial residence here this afternoon, the Soviet official added that Kuwait's voice is now being heard throughout the world: It is the voice of reason, the likes of which there are few in the world. He said that he had held "serious and detailed" talks with his highness the amir of Kuwait today, talks that dealt with Kuwait-Soviet relations, which were accorded "great appreciation and given high assessment."

Discussion also included international issues, first of all Middle East issues. The two sides showed mutual understanding regarding the need to continue efforts at the Arab and international levels for a settlement of the issue.

He announced that he conveyed a verbal message to his highness the amir from the Soviet leadership and from Mikhail Gorbachev expressing the Soviet Union's congratulations to Kuwait for its success in convening the Islamic summit. The Soviet official also extended an invitation to his highness the amir to visit the Soviet Union, and said that the invitation was accepted and received with satisfaction.

Petrovskiy said that he and his delegation held a series of talks and consultations with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah and Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin on all issues and topics of mutual interest. The delegation's agenda, he said, was extensive and covered all bilateral and international issues.

The Soviet official expressed satisfaction with the identity of the two countries' views when discussing the Middle East question and the need for an international peace conference under the canopy of the United Nations to settle the issue. Petrovskiy emphasized that current circumstances are more suitable than ever for such a conference, particularly since most countries insist on it.

He noted that the two countries agree on the need to reactivate efforts to bring an end to the Iraq-Iran war as soon as possible. He added that his country gives special attention to the efforts made in the UN Security Council and in the international community in this connection.

He stressed that Moscow has frequently announced its great interest in securing freedom of shipping in the Arab Gulf. He pointed out that discussions covered Soviet leader Gorbachev's proposal regarding freedom of shipping in the Indian Ocean, in general, and the Strait of Hormuz, in particular; and that Kuwait warmly welcomed the proposal.

He added that his current visit to Kuwait has proved once again the soundness of Soviet foreign policy, which sees all mankind living on the same land, interlinked, with a policy satisfactory to all, coupled with a complete understanding of the existing facts and realities.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister denied that his country was intending to resume relations with the Zionist entity. He said the reason for severing these relations in 1967 still existed: Israel is still refusing to withdraw from occupied Arab territories. He added that this subject was not discussed during the visit, explaining that this visit had been planned for some time with a view to strengthening and consolidating bilateral relations and understanding with the countries of the region.

He expressed his conviction that the pressing matter in the Middle East was the transition from words to deeds, whether concerning the convening of an international peace conference or the ending of the Iraq-Iran war and maintaining freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

Petrovskiy stressed that his country's government decided to cancel a Soviet consular delegation's visit to occupied Palestine after Israel attempted to exploit the visit for extortion, profiteering, pressuring, and creating a media clamor about it. He explained that the visit would have been a purely practical one to deal with the condition of some Soviet citizens, most of whom are working in religious institutions, and to discuss the state of Soviet real estate in occupied Palestine. He denied that the Soviet Union had come to an agreement with any side on allowing the periodic immigration of a specific number of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. He said that decisions on emigration are made on an individual basis. He went on to say that emigration was subject to the laws of the Soviet Union, a procedure followed in most countries. There are Jews in most parts of the world who are immigrating to occupied Palestine, among them Jews from Arab countries.

Regarding efforts to end the Iran-Iran war, Petrovskiy reaffirmed that he has some points and ideas aimed at reactivating these efforts. These ideas, he said, include talks within the UN Security Council and preparations for a special session by the member states at the foreign ministers' level to discuss the question of ending that war. The ideas also include sounding out the countries concerning with the conflict, he said.

He added: "Proceeding from our new concept of the situation, we believe that consultations should be held with all sides to firmly determine the facts, since no state has a monopoly on the truth."

He said that Gorbachev's proposal to initiate international multilateral talks on freedom of shipping in the Arab Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz was discussed. Referring to past Security Council resolutions in this connection, he said that most of these resolutions have not been implemented because of Iran's rejection.

He added: The international situation is unstable: Changes and developments occur continuously. That is why the search for new ways of persuading the conflicting parties -- and the search for solutions satisfactory to all sides -- must continue. He noted that practical steps for the protection of ships and shipping in the Gulf will be discussed as part of the talks on ending the war. He denied any agreement with the United States regarding the war. He added: We do not deny our efforts and endeavors in the search for an end to that war, but there is no agreement with the United States in this connection.

The deputy Soviet foreign minister affirmed that the conditions were favorable for holding a Middle East peace conference in light of the following three matters:

1. The resolutions of the Nonalignment Movement;
2. The resolutions of the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference held in Kuwait;
3. The resolutions of the EEC.

He pointed out that these three matters will help greatly in pushing forward the efforts of the said conference.

He declared that what he called "healthy thinking" in Israeli politics will ultimately triumph, and Israel will itself come to realize that there can be no solution other than the peaceful solution. He pointed out that by "healthy thinking," he meant a change in the current policy, which is based on continued aggression and expansion in the Middle East.

Asked about the Soviet Union's attitude toward the Palestine dialogue meetings in Algiers and the PNC meeting scheduled to begin tomorrow, Petrovskiy said that his country considers the Palestine questin to be the essence of the Middle East problem and that there can be no solution of this question without PLO unity. He said that his country has always been working to ensure the realization of this unity, adding that if the Palestinian groups' dialogue in Algiers were to achieve positive steps in this regard, the Palestine resistance movement would achieve great success and victory.

He declared that developments and improvements have occurred in Soviet-Egyptian relations and that his country views with respect Egypt's stand alongside the international efforts to settle the Middle East crisis.

He said that the USSR has been trying to apply "new thinking," which calls for the political solution of all regional conflicts, including those of the Horn of Africa, Afghanistan, and Nicaragua.

The Soviet official rejected the idea of linking the establishment of diplomatic relations between his country and some of the Arab Gulf countries with the withdrawal from Afghanistan, and said that such linkage was improper.

He declared Moscow's readiness, in principle, to establish and develop relations with all the world's countries, including those of the region.

He said that there were forces that have been trying to impede the course of a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan and to thwart all attempts to find a solution, despite the great efforts being made by the Afghan Government to bring about a national reconciliation.

He said the USSR fully supports the Afghan Government's efforts to achieve national reconciliation. He declared that his country has withdrawn part of its forces from Afghanistan and have been working for a complete withdrawal of these forces "after the removal of all the reasons that led to these forces' going to Afghanistan in the first place."

Meets With UAE President

PM281157 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr Second Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Visit Takes Place"]

[Text] USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V. Petrovskiy paid a visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on April 19-21. During the visit he met with UAE President Zayid ibn Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan. They had an in-depth exchange of opinions on questions of the Middle East settlement, consolidation of the military-political stability in the Indian Ocean and Persia Gulf area and, specifically, the assurance of the guarantees of safety of sea lanes. Questions of ending the Iran-Iraq war and the possibilities of a more active use of the U.N. Security Council for that purpose were also discussed.

During the discussion of bilateral relations, both sides noted that favorable prospects are openning up for their successful development.

Political consultations were held at the UAE Foreign Ministry. A wide range of international problems, questions of bilateral relations of mutual interest were addressed.

Visits Sultanate of Oman

LD240908 Moscow TASS in English 0700 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait April 24 TASS -- Vladimir Petrovskiy, a deputy minister of foreign affairs of the U.S.S.R., visited the Sultanate of Oman on April 22-23.

He had a meeting with Sulan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman during which the sides considered matters related to the establishment of a solid foundation for relations between the two countries and examined international problems of mutual interest.

Special attention was devoted to ways for ensuring peace in the Indian Ocean zone, including the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, and to the issue of Mid-East settlement, particularly, the setting in motion of the mechanism of an international conference.

The Soviet envoy was also received by Fahd ibn Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, by Yusuf ibn Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and held political consultations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman.

Talks With Iraq's 'Aziz

PM291017 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Talks Held"]

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Apr -- USSR Deputy Foreign Minister V.F. Petrovskiy, who is in the Iraqi capital, has had meetings with T. 'Aziz, member of the Revolutionary Command Council, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister of Iraq, and had political consultations at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry. During the talks there was an examination of Soviet-Iraqi relations and a thorough exchange of opinions on topical international questions and the Near East situation in connection with the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The talks and consultations revealed the proximity and coincidence of positions on the main major issues including issues like the formation of an all-encompassing system of international security, disarmament, and the elimination of regional conflicts. Both sides emphasized the need to reach a fair, all-embracing settlement in the near East.

During the exchange of opinions the sides expressed all-around support for the efforts aimed at a peaceful settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict and the use of this end of the potential of the United Nations and above all the UN Security Council.

Further Reportage

For Middle East reportage on visits by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovksiy to Kuwait and the UAE, see the Arabian Peninsula section of the 17 April Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON AL-ASAD'S MOSCOW VISIT

Welcoming Party Cited

PM291601 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 April 87 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "On Official, Friendly Visit"]

[Excerpt] Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Ba'th Party and president of Syria, arrived in Moscow 23 April on an official friendly visit at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers.

At Vnukovo Airport, H. al-Asad was welcomed at the aircraft by: A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister; and A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

The following officials took part in the meeting: G.M. Voskanyan, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; N.F. Vasilyev, USSR minister of land reclamation and water resources; K.F. Katushev, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; S.F. Akhromeyev and Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy ministers; V.T. Saykin, chairman of the Moscow Gorispolkom; K.N. Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central committee International Department; A.S. Dzasokhov, USSR ambassador to Syria, and other officials.

Y. Jum'ah, Syrian charge d'affaires ad interim in the USSR, the heads of the diplomatic missions of a number of Arab countries accredited in the USSR, and Syrian students studying in Soviet VUZ's were among the welcoming party.

The Syrian and USSR state flags were flying at the airport and an honor guard of representatives of three branches of the USSR Armed Forces -- the Ground Forces, the Air Force and the Navy -- was lined up on the airfield. An orchestra played the state anthems of the two countries. A.A. Gromyko and H. al-Asad inspected the ranks of Soviet servicemen. [passage omitted]

Departure Viewed

PM281443 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Visit Completed"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] H. al-Asad was accompanied to the aircraft steps at Vnukovo Airport by A.A. Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet presidium; E.A. Shevardnadze, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR foreign minister; S.L. Sokolov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR defense minister; and A.F. Dobrynin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

Also present were: G.M. Voskanyan, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; V.M. Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; N.F. Vasilyev, USSR minister of land reclamation and water resources; K.F. Katushev, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations; S.F. Akhromeyev and Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy ministers; V.T. Saykin, chairman of Moscow Gorispolkom; K.N. Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department; A.S. Dzasokhov, USSR ambassador to Syria; and other officials.

Also present were: Y. Jumah, Syrian charge d'affaires ad interim in the USSR; the heads of the diplomatic missions of a number of Arab countries accredited in the USSR; and Syrian students studying at Soviet VUZ's.

The Syrian and USSR state flags were flying at the airport and an honor guard representing three branches of the USSR Armed Forces -- the Ground Forces, the Air Force, and the Navy -- was drawn up on the airfield. A band played the two countries' national anthems. A.A. Gromyko and H. al-Asad inspected the Soviet troop lineup. [passage omitted]

'ARAFAT VIEWS PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

LD270840 Moscow TASS in English 0803 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers April 27 TASS -- "The just ended session of the Palestine National Council consolidated the ranks of the Palestinian movement. It is a reflection of the unity of the Palestinian people living on the occupied territories and in the Palestinian refugee camps," Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said at a news conference here Sunday.

Yasir 'Arafat said that the session had discussed in detail the idea of calling an international conference for the Middle East and supported that proposal. He expressed the view that the success of the session would assist the convocation of an Arab summit meeting. Yasir 'Arafat said that the PLO was prepared to cooperate with other Palestinian organizations which had not attended the session.

USSR MINISTRY 'UNAWARE' OF 'ARAFAT PROPOSAL

LD271129 Kuwait KUNA in English 1046 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, April 27 (KUNA) -- The Soviet Foreign Ministry is unaware of a proposal made by chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat to establish a Palestinian-Israeli state, an official source stated here Monday. The source, in the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry, emphasized when asked by KUNA that "The Foreign Ministry has no information of any sort on this proposal."

Last Saturday, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, in comments on suggestions made by Israeli Minister with Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman for a confederal Palestinian-Israeli state, called for "a dual-nationality state based on a democratic system."

RSFSR MINISTER MEETS JALLUD IN TRIPOLI

LD201745 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the revolution leadership of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, has received Sukharev, RFSFR minister of justice, member of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Afro-Asian Countries Presidium. Sukharev visited West Tripoli at the head of a Soviet delegation. During the meeting the solidarity of the Soviet people with the people of the Jamahiriyah was affirmed in the face of hostile U.S. imperialist conspiracies. 'Abd al-Salam Jallud praised the Soviet Union's stand in support of Libya and affirmed the endeavour of his country to continue developing relations of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union.

GORBACHEV RECEIVES FRONTLINE STATES DELEGATION

LD291243 Moscow TASS in English 1226 29 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 29 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a conversation in the Kremlin today with a group of representatives of "Frontline" Countries in southern Africa. The group consisted of Lule Mwananshiku, minister of foreign affairs of Zambia, Witness Mangwende, minister of foreign affairs of Zimbabwe, Benjamin Mkapa, minister of foreign affairs of Tanzania, Fernando Jose Franca Dias Van Dunen, minister of justice of Angola, and Daniel Saul Mbanze, deputy minister of foreign affairs of Mozambique.

Representatives of "Frontline" Countries arrived in Moscow yesterday [28 Apr] for a short working visit.

PRAVDA NOTES BURKINA FASO DELEGATION'S VISIT

PM291811 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Interparty Talks"]

[Text] A Burkina Faso National Revolutionary Council [CNR] delegation, headed by L. Sedogo [name as transliterated], member of the CNR, was in the Soviet Union from 11 through 24 April in line with the program for ties between the CPSU and the CNR.

The delegation was received at the CPSU Central Committee Party Organizational Work Department and International Department and at the Kabardino-Balkar CPSU Obkom. It visited a number of industrial enterprises, kolkhozes, and educational establishments, where it familiarized itself with party organizations' activities in fulfilling the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress and party Central Committee January (1987) Plenum.

NESTERENKO-LED DELEGATION LEAVES FOR SAO TOME

PM281651 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Delegation Leaves"]

[Text] A CPSU delegation headed by S.M. Nesterenko, second secretary of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee, left Moscow for Sao Tome and Principe 26 April at the invitation of the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe.

ARTICLE COMPARES BAY OF PIGS, CURRENT U.S. POLICY

PM271207 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 4

[A. Kamorin "International Commentary": "Echo of Playa Giron"]

[Text] The 26th anniversary of the utter defeat of the hirelings of U.S. imperialism, currently being celebrated by the Cuban people, is one of those historical dates which evoke complex, contradictory feelings. Admiration for the exploits of the soldiers of the insurgent army and the fighters of the people's militia who smashed the landing of 1,500 counterrevolutionaries armed and equipped by the CIA is mixed with the awareness that the defeat at Playa Giron simply has not served as a lesson to the organizers of this shameful intervention.

Even the difference in terminology is typical. U.S. sources prefer to call the events of April 1961 "the defeat at the Bay of Pigs," disregarding the very name of the area of coastline where the decisive battle took place between the Cubans and the mercenaries from "Brigade 2506." This is not only a geographical subterfuge. For many U.S. historians and political scientists the "Bay of Pigs" has become synonymous with a military action which only miscarried because of gross errors on the part of its organizers. Hence the fundamentally criminal objectives of the intervention as well as the Cubans' heroism and resoluteness in defending the achievements of the revolution remain beyond scrutiny.

A similar arrogance in analyzing the lessons of history can take the current helmsmen of U.S. foreign policy a long way. The "marginalization" of the real expectations and aspirations of the peoples of those countries which the United States arbitrarily declares a "zone of its vitally important interests" creates a distorted picture of the world in the minds of the Washington leaders, and this is one of the biggest dangers in politics.

A quarter of a century is quite long enough for reflection. Alas, the echo of Playa Giron only evokes war cries in today's Washington. This is demonstrated by the impressive U.S. military maneuvers code-named "Solid Shield" planned for the end of April in Central America and the Caribbean, involving more than 50,000 soldiers and officers.

The exercises will embrace a huge area which includes the territories of several states, and the Guantanamo naval base illegally retained by the United States on Cuban territory. In these conditions the spearhead of U.S. aggression can easily be reoriented so that not a single country in the area can consider itself secure. The world's press is also justifiably viewing this Pentagon action as a direct threat to the independence of revolutionary Nicaragua. Indeed, during the maneuvers sufficient forces will be concentrated on the borders of the young Republic to intervene should the Reagan administration make the appropriate political decision.

A year ago, on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the events at Playa Giron, Arthur Schlesinger, the U.S. historian, wrote: "One forms the impression that within a quarter of a century the lessons of the past learned by President Kennedy from the operation at the Bay of Pigs have largely been forgotten. Today in Central America we are repeating the Bay of Pigs in slow motion." The facts show that over the years nothing much has changed in White House policy -- only the slow motion has been speeded up considerably. The arrogant reckoning on U.S. omnipotence continues to operate, although the following words from Schlesinger's article could be the key for resolving many of the problems of U.S. foreign policy: "The Bay of Pigs must serve not as an example but as a warning."

DEMICHEV VISITS CUBAN EMBASSY ON DEATH OF BLAS ROCA

LD282111 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1350 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, 28 Apr (TASS) -- Today Petr Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, visited the Embassy of the Republic of Cuba in the Soviet Union and expressed condolences on the death of Blas Roca, a prominent Cuban political and state figure, veteran of the international communist movement, and member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, and signed the book of condolences. Avgust Voss, chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet; Mikhail Smirnovskiy, deputy head of a CPSU Central Committee Department; Viktor Komplektov, deputy USSR minister of foreign affairs; and other officials also visited the embassy.

U.S. TO GIVE F-5'S TO HONDURAS AS 'MILITARY AID'

LD232347 Moscow TASS in English 0916 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Managua April 23 TASS -- The United States intends to hand over to Honduras as "free military aid" American F-5 fighter-planes. This has officially been reported by head of the Honduran regime Jose Simon Azcona.

He said Honduras would receive 15 combatant planes to become operational with its Air Force next December. The United States plans to grant a total of 100 million dollars as military aid to the Honduran regime.

The Government of Nicaragua repeatedly noted that militarization of Honduras met the U.S. intention to use that country as a tool of aggression against the Sandinist People's Revolution.

ZAKHAROV DELEGATION MEETS COLOMBIAN LEGISLATORS

PM281701 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 April 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "In the Land of Colombia"]

[Text] Bogota, 25 Apr -- A CPSU delegation headed by V.A. Zakharov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of the Kalmyk CPSU Obkom, which is here at the invitation of the Colombian Communist Party leadership, met in the Republic's Congress senators and members of the House of Representatives from different political parties. The meeting's participants exchanged views on the question of developing Soviet-Colombian relations in various fields. Confidence was expressed that there are real opportunities to activate bilateral links between the two countries, and the importance of their development in the interests of strengthening trust and cooperation between the USSR and Colombia was stressed.

NEW SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO JAMAICA PROFILED

LD270834 Moscow TASS in English 0805 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 27 TASS -- The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. appointed Vladimir Romanenko ambassador of the U.S.S.R. to Jamaica. Vladimir Romanenko was born in 1932 and joined the diplomatic service in 1954.

He held a number of ranking posts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R and abroad. In 1978-1981 he served as counsellor of the embassy of the U.S.S.R in the United States. The former Soviet Ambassador to Jamaica Dmitriy Musin was relieved of his duties in connection with his retirement.

NEW BOLIVIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

PM240755 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Presentation of Credentials"]

[Text] Mario Velarde Dorado, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bolivia, presented his credentials to G.M. Voskanyan, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in the Kremlin 17 April.

Following the presentation of credentials and an exchange of speeches, friendly talks took place between G.M. Voskanyan and M. Velarde Dorado.

GREETINGS EXCHANGED WITH GUYANESE LEADERSHIP

PM271215 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Exchange of Telegrams"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has sent a telegram to Hugh Desmond Hoyte, president of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, which conveys to him and the friendly people of Guyana best wishes and congratulations on the occasion of his country's national holiday -- Republic Day.

In a message of reply, the president of Guyana expressed his gratitude for the congratulations and the good wishes sent to the people of Guyana.

The telegrams expressed the conviction that the future fruitful development of friendly Soviet-Guyanan links would serve the interests of the peoples of both countries, and would further peace and international cooperation.

AFANASYEV WANTS FACTS ON STALIN, KHRUSHCHEV PUBLISHED

WA281130 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 21 Mar 87 p 3

[Correspondent T. Menshikova interviewed with Yu. Afanasyev: "From Standpoints of Truth and Realism"]

[Text] Soviet people have perceived as a manifesto of the true inheritors of the Great October, a manifesto of reconstruction and acceleration, the CPSU Central Committee appeal to the Soviet people and the CPSU Central Committee decree "Preparations for the 70th Anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution". These documents summon us to an aware comprehension of the unfading experience of the revolution and socialist building in our country and the strenuous work of mind and hand in the name of continuation of the cause of our fathers and grandfathers at the current complex stage of qualitative transformations of all aspects of the life of Soviet society.

The party reminds us once again that a dear price was paid for the deviation from the Leninist principles and methods of building the new society, for the violation of socialist legality and democratic standards of life in the party and society, for voluntarist mistakes and for dogmatism in thinking and inertia in practical action. We are called on today to conduct propaganda from the standpoints of truth and realism, striving to ensure that all Soviet people are able, in Lenin's words, "as soberly, clearly and graphically as possible to recognize what precisely we 'have finished' and what we 'have not finished'." The party is paying particular attention in this regard to the need for a fundmental improvement in the research into and study and propaganda of the CPSU's historical experience, research into the whole extent thereof, without blanks and the smoothing over of sharp edges. The problem of the formation of effective historical thinking and the true political culture of society and each citizen thereof is an urgent one today, when it is a question of the vital creativity of the masses in restructuring all mechanisms of Soviet society. This was what our correspondent T. Menshikova discussed with Prof. Yu. Afanasyev, chancellor of the State Historical- Archives Institute and doctor of historical sciences.

[Menshikova] Yuriy Nikolayevich, among the phenomena troubling our society today there is that of social passiveness. Do not think it strange that we address such a question to you. What can historians do to overcome this misfortune?

[Afanasyev] To overcome it, and other misfortunes also, we need the truth concerning our society. Here, perhaps, is a most decisive point for an understanding of our socialist future. After all, the past is not some separate problem, not just one problem. Self-awareness is impossible and the whole sphere of contemporary sense and nonsense, fears, hopes and plans is incomprehensible without the past. We are so set in our thinking that our very capacity for parting with the past needs knowledge of it and reliance on it.

This is a principle.

But at precisely this moment, in light of the tasks being tackled by society, what is particularly needed is knowledge about two nodal points of our Soviet history: 1917-1929--"under Lenin and after Lenin"-- and 1956-1965-- "after Stalin, the 20th congress and the attempted reforms". It is worth taking a close look at the victories and defeats of those most dynamic periods, which abound in contradictions.

Let us speak somewhat more specifically, let us ask ourselves the question: Have we a sufficient grasp of the struggle of ideas and social projects and "models" of socialism proposed at the time of Lenin and after his death? It is necessary to read all over again, but, consequently, also complete the republication of congress and party conference material and cardinally change to modus operandi of the archives. To consider in depth, as accurately as possible, the correct or mistaken ideas encountered at that time also, their social roots and their inner logic. Further, different peoples' attitude toward Stalin varied. Granted all this, his reports and articles must in no way slip from the sphere of our attention. If need be, they should perhaps even be reissued. Our television sometimes still shows us him only in an aura of wisdom and power. Let the younger generation have a chance to compose an objective picture of him, putting before it his works and the works of Lenin and his associates. It is not a question of simply returning to the 20th congress but of finding a new depth of analysis.

One further point in continuation of the same thought. In the recent television film "My Contemporaries" the young Gagarin, after his return to Earth, is striding along the strip of carpet. To whom would he report, one wondered, who would shake his hand? The youth did not know. People who are somewhat older exchanged glances. Was it necessary to leave Khrushchev out of the frame? After all, he was a complex, equivocal figure. His role in the postwar history of our society still has to be clarified. How long can we pretend that he did not exist? Gagarin was forced to stride off somewhere into the distance, from the void into a void. We need to remember everything! We speak of the stagnation of the past 15-20 years. It is sad to think that the best, mature part of the life of people my age is connected with stagnation. There is no getting it back! But all the more must it not be forgotten. It also is important and instructive. Let us remember, recall, and ponder the 10th congress and the 20th congress. Let us ponder and recall for the sake of the 28th and 29th congresses of our party. Let us recall both the bad and the experience of all the achievements and paradoxes of our history, all that is courageous and honest therein, the experience of all that has been accomplished, but projects which have also not been accomplished. We need to analyze the history of the beginning and failure of the economic reform of the mid-1960's. Do you know what else? We need a permanent, well documented, intrepid journal on party history. After all, we need to relieve M. Shatrov if only a little.

[Menshikova] Until this happens, myths will arise. They have been particularly numerous in recent years. What are the roots of the historical mythology to be found in the everyday consciousness of the type: "Nicholas II was not stupid," "Kolchak was a character" and others? From what do they grow?

[Afansyev] Perhaps what you call "myths" is natural to a certain extent--historical anecdotes, talk, echoes. It is not the "myths," not the semisuperstitious fragments of the everyday consciousness which are dispiriting but the fact that they are current in the place of historical works, and not in the margins of serious studies. It is necessary to accustom people to think in broad and profound categories and not subsist on anecdotes. It would then be clear that Nicholas II was not only a dull-witted and poorly or moderately educated person but also treacherous, stubborn and cruel, which was noted by people who knew him intimately.

The tradition of portraying reactionary historical figures in caricature, which was outmoded 50 years ago even and which no longer corresponds to the modern level of Soviet people's cultural development, serves as the ground for their mythologization. Surely the vacuum in the illustration of reactionary historical figures and periods of reaction which has been created artificially, by way of the imposition of a virtual ban on such problems, has been reflected here?

Together with this the history of the revolution has simultaneously been impoverished and remained impersonal and mired in sociological outlines which do not touch the hearts of people, particularly the younger generation. Moral reference points in the spiritual life of society have been deformed. Some authors began to frankly reject the class approach in an evaluation of facts and certain historical personalities.

All this perceptibly shook the stability of democratic traditions in our social self-awareness. An ideology (which was actively supported in certain circles, incidentally) mixed with an inclination toward so-called strong personalities came to be created. This is an extremely serious phenomenon. Substitution for the class, even if democratic, approach in an illustration of figures and events of the past intensified particularly in the 1970's.

Identifying the cultural heritage of the Russian people with the results of the activity of czarism and the ruling classes in Russian, some authors delight in the change which occurred in the 1930's from the "strict dogmatism" of the preceding years, when Marxist historians reconsidered the apologist view of the history of autocracy inherited from gentry and bourgeois historiography. Urging that history not rest content with "limited arguments" concerning the "gloomy," "dark times," some authors of historical, current affairs and artistic compositions undertook the unoriginal task of popularizing the "national" mission of the Russian czars and great men, presenting them as the spokesmen for the interests of all classes and society as a whole. This line is traced from Kievan Rus (NASH SOVREMENNIK No 4, 1982) through the times of Ivan the Terrible (F. Nesterov's "Link of the Times") and Catherine II with her associates (MOLODAY GVARDIYA No 3, 1970, VOPROSY ISTORII No 11, 1985 and Pikul's novel "The Favorite") up to Nicholas II (N. Yakovlev's "1 August 1914"). For example, F. Nesterov attempts to persuade the reader that Russian people preserved the same "loyalty to the sovereign... as to God," that, granted all the cruelty of Ivan the Terrible, there was "as strong a love for him on the part of the people" as other sovereigns could acquire "only by means of indulgence and flattery" and so forth.

Alas, these views gained quite an extensive press. They also are the fulcrum of the "myths" of which you speak.

[Menshikova] Extolling the role of autocracy in the development of the Russian state, Western historians claim that October 1917 interrupted the natural course of historical events. How seriously should we treat such arguments....

[Afansyev] As far as apologetics for autocracy is concerned, this was a break with tradition of the Russian intelligentsia. And not only the social democratic but the entire progressive, democratic intelligentsia. Not to consider the powerful wave of criticism of autocracy which emanated from the camp of the bourgeoisie means once again having only a very remote idea of what actually happened at that time. Everyone sensed, knew there would be a revolution, and even, perhaps, those who feared it, all knew it could not be avoided.

But prior to the intervention of October everything is more subtle, complex here. Strictly speaking, those who evaluate October thus are right. This is not their idea, it is -- you have just to think for a moment--Lenin's idea. After all, it was he who said that October marked a modification of the customary order of historical development. Any revolution disturbs such a course. Strictly speaking, is all that man has created the natural course of things? In creating people sometimes abruptly alter the current of life. After all, had it not been for April 1985, the "natural course of things" would have been stagnation, corruption, nepotism.

To return to October, it was the Mensheviks--Plekhanov and Martov, in particular--who were for a continuation of the "natural" course of things. They believed Russia was not ready for socialism, that capitalism had not fully ripened here. Lenin understood that none of this was stupidity. More, he saw this unreadiness no less and more than the Mensheviks. His answer was well known.

The dialectical paradox of October was, in Lenin's idea, to intervene in the course of events, which was "natural," but which had become intolerable, and then with the help of levers of proletarian power and by way of cultural revolution to accelerate Russia's degree of readiness for socialism. We also are now confronted with the same improbably complex, paradoxical task: To strengthen and improve the management of the country and that this management, strengthen the positions of socialism to the greatest extent and prepare the transition to self-management.

[Menshikova] Many interesting books are published on the history of prerevolution Russia, but our readers will surely be unable to name even one such popular book on the history of the Soviet period. Do you not think that historians have to some extent forfeited their influence on the social consciousness?

[Afansyev] Unfortunately, this is so. Books have appeared here, albeit not often, on history which have become a social and cultural event. But on Soviet history this is rare.

To speak in problem-solving, large-scale and businesslike manner about the society in which we live the historian also needs to have the moral right for this. And is can only be won in a struggle with those who condemn history as a science to social passiveness and with its own ailments of sluggishness and servility. [paragraph continues]

It is improper for historians to judge society from the sidelines, as it were, and appear before it sometimes in a white doctor's coat, sometimes in white evening dress. It is we who should be healing ourselves primarily and, perhaps, repenting. But in our own shop, reconstruction, let us hope, is still to come. Indeed, there have been more than enough calls for debate and theoretical generalizations. But, after all, everyone has known that theory and new knowledge in historical science are encouraged only on condition that they not be at variance with "generally accepted" opinions. A departure from the "norm" threatened the historian with many consequences -- as far as removal from the horizon of science. I refer merely to the fate of the historians V.V. Adamov, E.N. Burdzhalov, P.V. Volobuyev and... I could continue down the alphabet.

The right to undertake an intepretation and reconsideration of theoretical problems was assumed by a group of people who saddled themselves with a multitude of positions. For example, the smashing of a whole school with its quest in the channel of the theory of the multistructure nature of prerevolutionary Russian society and generalizations concerning the singularities of Russia's historical development path was organized at the beginning of the 1970's. But 15 years later the same repudiators are not embarrassed to repeat in their own behalf precisely that on which anathema was pronounced as a deviation from Marxism. Open the group work "Historical Experience of the Three Russian Revolutions".... Is it possible with such morals, with such "scrupulousness" to present historical diagnoses and prescriptions? After all, they cannot heal us other than per the "Short Course".

You speak about passiveness and assertiveness. But how, do you think, the historian's assertiveness may be manifested? After all, the same administrators have also monopolized all the scientific press organs. Any scientific journal in whose portfolio there is a study which does not entirely concur with the guidelines prescribed in the authority "in charge" is furnished prior to publication with the consent of this authority. If it is not seeking adventures, of course. The presentation of a fresh idea in their organ is tightly barred by bureaucratic blocks of ice.

To many of my colleagues the treatment of social ailments would appear primarily to be in the form of a clearing away of the bureaucratic obstacles in the way of the movement of historical science itself. But this will not come easily. Recognitiion of whatever ailments of one's own even does not come easily. After all, for example, it has been said about us: "You have lost your capacity for a critical evaluation of your own place in science." But we make excuses here: this does not apply to us, it surely applies to party historians, but we represent academic science. The counterdemand: it is time to put a critical analysis of the state of affairs within a framework. "We cannot, however, allow," S.L. Tikhvinskiy, academician-secretary of the History Department, cautions, "our entire historical science to be discredited in the guise of reconstruction." No. But in this case it is a question of something else.

Candor is needed here. After all, judge for yourself: the movement of thought has been suspended for 20 years. Not absolutely, of course. Stopping thought altogether is impossible. But, nonetheless, years of artificial inhibition! It is now fashionable to sigh apropos the general situation which had taken shape in the country, apropos the universal hopelessness of past years. This certainly needs to be thought out. But there were also specific addresses. [paragraph continues]

It is no accident that M.S. Gorbachev is returning to them constantly, also naming the CPSU Central Committee and the leadership of the country among them. Everyone should be doing this. Ananymous criticism is not the best companion of the reconstruction. There were and are specific people who directly "created" the stagnation. They should at least be known, especially because their way of thinking and modi operandi are also working today in the same direction. The campaign to put a stop to the scientific quest in historical science at the start of the 1970's was headed by S.P. Trapeznikov, who enjoyed unlimited license in the leadership of the science and who installed in virtually all positions persons who were dependent on him and who were welded together in this soil by "professional" ties. Some of them continue today to "run" historical science and are untiring in their calls for "bold quest and debate". At the 9 March session of the USSR Academy of Sciences History Department corresponding member V.P. Volobuyev cited some of these people by name and sharply criticized the state of our historical science. But his was a relatively lonely voice. On the other hand the appeals by certain administrators for "no undue haste with reconstruction" were heard. A polarization of positions in this sphere has to intensify, I believe. It is a new era which is coming, not a routine campaign which is being conducted.

[Menshikova] Time-serving? What calamities has it caused science and all reading people as a whole? What periods are in need of a new and more truthful reading?

[Afanasyev] What, not at all! We have no time-servers now. Judge for yourself. Some were thinking people even earlier. Others, however, had never been able to think or had simply become unaccustomed to so doing. All their life they had seized on guidelines. Now the guideline is toward independent activity, self-awareness. A guideline against "guidelines". A fantastic situation, is it not?

Seriously, many people do not want to reorganize because this affects their interests and they simply cannot do this. Fresh forces are needed. This is why, I believe, the subject of the second party Central Committee plenum since the 27th congress was personnel.

What periods are in need of a new and more truthful perusal? The logic of the development of science does not recognize problems which have been studied in their entirety and which henceforth need no revision. But under our conditions, when historians' main task is seeking reconstruction and making this process as irreversible as possible, there are, I believe, certain questions of priority significance. I believe the time has come to put on a professional footing study of the set of problems connected with the cult of Stalin's personality. We do not have a single study on this most important question. Yet non-Marxist historiography on this subject runs into the hundreds and thousands of publications. We, however, continue to ignore it. As a result even such specialists in the Stalin era as V.I. Kasyanenko lose their way in broad daylight. I say "lose their way" because they are heading, in my opinion, in study of the problems not forward but backward.

For example, we frankly cannot believe the assertion that the mass repression of honest Soviet people in the 1930's was either a "mistake" or "shortcoming" "in observance of socialist legality" (mentined in the same breath as shortcomings "in consumer service") or even "the inevitable costs of the class struggle and the revolutionary rearrangement of society". [paragraph continues]

Well-known party resolutions describe them differently--"perversions," "arbitrariness," "lawlessness," "abuses of power in the period of the cult of personality" and the actions of Beriya's "criminal band". Thus have they become a part of the people's consciousness. No scientific information for a revision of this evaluation has appeared since 1956, nor did V.I. Kasyanenko adduce such in the article "The Building of Socialism in the USSR and the Ideological Struggle of the Two Worlds" (VOPROSY ISTORIL No 2, 1986). The party resolutions have not been abrogated. A revision thereof is thus politically and morally groundless.

[Menshikova] Today we increasingly prefer to read both Marx and Lenin without the mediation of interpreters. Why have they become not a help but a barrier en route to Marxism?

[Afanasyev] You are asking a rhetorical question, as you are aware. Well so it should be.

It is necessary to read Marx and Lenin and not textbooks, not expositions. It is awful that our students rarely glance at primary sources and perceive them as an appendix to the synopses.

When we are left alone with Marx and Lenin, they are for us not so much a "teacher" -- as if they would be "gratified" that we call them thus--as eternal fellow conversationalists. In reading them we need to think and problems are not closed off here but, rather, revealed. They stir us intellectually. We need to understand the founders of Marxism at new turns of history unforeseen by them. Unfortunately, in all textbooks they are given as long since and conclusively understood. Their thoughts are given not as problems but as answers.

This is the essence of dogmatism.

Why, strictly speaking, are seemingly professional commentaries a hindrance? Because they are unprofessional and are constructed on roughly the following postulates: the classics have always been completely right, on their side has been the whole truth; on the side of their opponents, on the other hand, the whole falsehood. Even when the classics themselves refute this, changing, arguing with themselves with yesterday's classics, even in these cases, instead of complex intellectual collisions, instead of quest, choice, doubts and other properties of the living mind, the commentator says they were simply taking into consideration the changed reality. Reality had changed, but they themselves cannot change! They had educated, gifted and sometimes brilliant opponents--Proudhon, Bakunin, Lasalle, Kropotkin, Plekhanov. We, however, often try to make their opponents appear foolish and thereby demean they themselves. The depth of the ideas of Marx, Engels and Lenin grows in history, like any cultural profundity, imbibing the content which they themselves did not contemplate directly. Their ideas are open to the future. Of course, serious philosophers and historians approach things differently from dogmatists, but there are few such works as yet.

And one more thang. Each time seeks answers to its questions from Lenin. Three aspects are of particular interest to us now, it seems to me. The initial stages of the building of the economic foundations of socialism. [paragraph continues]

Lenin's art of political changes. And once again not in details but from the viewpoint of certain general principles of political thinking. The Leninist utmost toughness of polemics without practical conclusions. It is also true, however, that he conducted polemics with major, talented people whom the revolution needed.

[Menshikova] The vacuum and gaps in our knowledge are made good by art -- just to take the plays of Shatrov. The interest in them is not fortuitous. We are weary of literature-primer unambiguousness and Westernization of the revolution and the civil war. Which historical processes and events, in your view, could be the artistic fabric of works which might excite people in the same way as "And Quiet Flows the Don"? What do you expect from historical novels and from art in general?

[Afanasyev] Art cannot, of course, substitute for the work of historians and political and socio-historical reflection. What M. Shatrov is doing when he expertly assembles and weighs writings and documents is brilliant and valuable, but this is, however, a bitter reproach to historians and cannot substitute for our work. Nor can history replace art. It provides us with the "color of the times," it provides a synthesis which is not within the powers of the most gifted and honest historian. It is not within the historian's power, for example, to describe the civil war as it is recounted by I. Babel, Vs. Ivanov or, say, G. Panfilov in the motion picture "No Ford in Fire". Or P. Filonov, A. Deyneka and K. Petrov-Vodkin, who have given us a stunning blend of the sublime, cruelty, emotionalism and dream. In the words of the poet, they have given us an opportunity to feel history "at the rupture of the aorta".

I do not entirely accept the form of your question: What should art provide? Art "should" provide nothing. In the film "My Friend Ivan Lapshin" the beginning of the 1930's is shown in such a way that it absorbs all that was perceived only by people of that time plus all that the heroes of the film do not know about themselves and about their future, but of which we know. There is suddenly a miracle: A long-departed instant of history becomes a general focus which concentrates an extensive, epoch-making period of time-from the civil war to our day.

I expect of art that it be art... and for this reason do not want to specify my expectations. After all, if I know what art should give me, why would I need it? But if, for all that, it "should" give something, this is unexpectedness and depth of comprehension of the past. Like the films of German or Abuladze or "The Mirror" of Tarkovskiy and his very powerful, contentious "Rublev," which were unimaginable beforehand.

I expect what I do not know.

[Menshikova] October 1917 and October 1987.... What aspects of that time illustrate anew our time and our problems?

[Afanasyev] I have often pondered the question why in the very last slice of the "tranquil" time, literally on the eve of the October assault, Lenin would write the work "The State and Revolution". [Paragraph continues]

We all need to repeatedly read this work. The seizure of power by the proletariat lay ahead, and the problem of power -- how to exercise it -- would be the main one. Social democracy interpreted the problem thus: the state or revolution. For Lenin everything lay in the copulative conjunction: how to realize this "and."

This is the main theme of Lenin's thought, and our entire experience with all our victories and defeats, our entire valuable experience confirms it. The revolution is accomplished in state forms, and the state must be revolutionary. "Revolutionary state" is a paradoxical combination of words. Everything is contained in this interval of meaning between state and revolution. Everything lies in this "and." Why? Well, is it possible to imagine, say, the "bureaucracy and revolution" synthesis? Lenin's main thought was that a Soviet bureaucracy not emerge. It was clear to him that the state could not be circumvented but that a bureaucratic state meant the failure of the revolution. Consequently, the problem of problems was a state without a bureaucracy.

For some time one of the words disappeared here from our intellectual range: We remembered the state, we forgot the revolution. We once again have this problem -- the state and revolution. It was no accident that it was precisely this problem that contained the entire fervor of M.S. Gorbachev's report at the recent plenum, the central part of which was entitled: "Extending Socialist Democracy, Developing the People's Self-Management".

Speaking of the values of the 70-year path, it also needs to be emphasized that we have been too hasty with victory statements, forgetting that we have been at the onset of a world change geared to centuries and millennia. The first century has not yet expired, the first day is not yet over. All that we have achieved, like our entire dissatisfaction, is on the scale of this day. We are still pioneers. Our valuable experience is all that we have given world history and all that has been done at the heavy price of struggle, agonies and hopes. Lenin would surely clarify some things now, reconsider some things. What is astounding is something else--his main thoughts not only have not become outdated, they are still ahead of us, we still have to implement them. This was how Lenin himself treated Marx. Thus, Lenin-style, must we treat the works of Lenin.

[Menshikova] What does reconstruction mean for you personally, as the leader of a VUZ and educator of youth and a new generation of historians? What kind of people should they be, in your view?

[Afanasyev] I have, of course, both as a chancellor and as a historian, different aims. There are those which I would like to accomplish without fail: for the training of specialists in the institute to be cardinally improved; for them to be broadly trained and never to become time-servers and "parrots" reiterating truisms; for them to enter the archives precisely as historians and not as clerks, with a real cultured understanding of the significance of their profession.

I would further like the Historical Archives Institute, to which I have rapidly begun to grow accustomed, to remain in the former buildings on the former Nikolskaya, within the ancient walls of the Slavonic-Greco-Latin Academy, and for the plans for the redesign, modernization and transfer to the V.I. Lenin Museum of the surviving part of Chinatown to be cancelled. I would like to know what Lenin would have said upon learning that people wanted to convert the Spasskiy Temple of the Zaikonospasskiy Monastery into his museum. I cannot imagine.

I speak about this quite calculatingly. After all, reconstruction is reconstruction, and as yet only the projects on which the searchlights of the press have been trained are being canceled here, and even then not without a difficult struggle. Any absurdity which has not come within the lighted zone will, I'm afraid, be carried out.

We still frequently perceive the past within the limit of the antithesis of barbarian neglect and prayerful reverence. We blow up the Zaryadye and build in its place the "Rossiya" Hospital and now we are proposing to convert all that has survived here into a continuous museum! No! The culture of the past must not be destroyed either by bulldozers and excavators or by total museumization and tasteless embellishment. Cultural continuity in the minds of people living today is ensured not only by the preservation of monuments in itself but also by the fact that the past lives naturally and fully as the present.

ACADEMICIAN SAMSONOV ON STALIN, BATTLE OF MOSCOW

OW251340 [Editorial Report] Moscow Television Service in Russian at 0005 GMT 24 April carries a 100 minute feature entitled "If Your House Is Dear to You." The feature deals with the battle of Moscow. The documentary is introduced by Academician A.M. Samsonov and Doctor of Historical Sciences V.T. Loginov.

Loginov introduces the program, saying it is one of several to be shown on the Great Patriotic War. He notes that there has been a renewed interest in history, and that there are current great debates concerning historical interpretations. Academician Samsonov, who has spent many years studying World War II, was asked questions concerning these debates.

Loginov raises a question which he says has been asked constantly -- why was the beginning of the war costly for the Soviet Union, what were the reasons for such initial setbacks?

Samsonov says that before the war, Soviet military strategy was based on the premise that should a war break out, it would be fought on the soil of the aggressor. He says: "Our leadership, in Stalin, did everything posible to postpone the inevitable war. In our calculations, the restructuring that was taking place in preparation for this war, to repel the aggression, could have been completed in 1942. The transfer of troops was taking place -- troops were being moved toward western military districts. Nevertheless, these measures wee far from being completed. Above all, these troops were not put on full battle alert even when it was painful clear that war was close."

Loginov reminds Samsonov that the order to place the troops on full alert was not signed until the day before the war began. Samsonov agrees, adding that this was in spite of the constant warnings of such generals as Zhukov and Timoshenko, who begged Stalin to place the military on full alert. Stalin, however, was concerned that such an action would precipitate an attack by the Germans and refused to listen. It was only after the reports by Richard Sorge were verified by a German defector on the eve of 22 June 1941 that Stalin agreed to place the border troops on alert, but at the same time gave specific instructions, in the event of an attack, to treat it as a border incident.

Loginov reminds Samsonov that there is a general tendency of listening to the information that one likes to hear and discount the rest. He recalls the excellent intelligence provided by Sorge and the warnings by Churchill. Samsonov says: "Here we must recall the situation that existed in our country immediately prior to the time in question. The authority of Stalin was not to be contradicted. In some matters this authority had some positive aspects, but at the same time it led to the situation where people were afraid to tell him that which he did not wish to hear."

Loginov mentions the generals with experience and leadership qualitities that were purged. Samsonov says: "The repression of the thirties, besides its inhumanity and immorality, also caused a great setback to our battle readiness. The top echelon of the military was significantly weakened because Tukhochevskiy and others not only gained experience in the civil war, in which they participated, but they were responsible for the artful development of our Soviet military science."

The rest of the dialogue is devoted to discussing the strategic and psychological importance of winning the battle of Moscow. Samsonov adds, however, that Soviet historiography devoted a great deal of time and effort to this battle but remained silent about the disasters suffered by the Soviet Army in Kuban and the destruction of the Soviet Army in the Kiev region. Samsonov makes it clear that both instances could have been avoided if Stalin would have listened to the advice of his generals.

The documentary is then shown. It begins with the 1941 Moscow May Day parade, and the narrator reminds the viewers that the Soviet military was seriously disadvantaged by the purges of the officer corps, especially the ranking personnel. The video then shows old footage of battles, destroyed towns, captured prisoners. Stalin's name is only mentioned once, in a brief interview with Marshal Zhukov.

'SILENCE' ON STALIN BROKEN, WRITINGS PUBLISHED

AU221314 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, April 22 (AFP) -- The taboo on discussion of Stalinism has taken another blow with the publication of the first part of Anatoliy Rybakov's novel "The Children of the Arbat", an 800-page account of Stalin's Terror, in the latest issue of the literary magazine DRUJBA NARODOV.

The lifting of the 20-year ban on Rybakov's novel, which will be published in three installments, is the boldest step so far in the easing of censorship since the succession of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985, observers said here.

A weekly magazine, OGONEK, previously published short extracts from the novel, which deals with the mass arrests, executions, deportations and labour camps at the time of Josef Stalin's purges during which millions died. A 50-year silence on the subject has only recently been broken.

Mr. Gorbachev told a meeting of writers and historians that "no page of Soviet history must remain unturned".

A film currently showing in several Moscow cinemas, "Repentance", is an allegory based on the career of Stalin's feared security chief Lavrenti Beria.

Author Anatoliy Rybakov, now 76, was himself arrested in 1933 and deported to Siberia for three years. His novel was slated for publication in 1966 in the revue NOVYY MIR, but failed to appear.

"The Children of the Arbat" is expected to have a similar impact to Alexander Solzhenitsyn's "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch", which has never been reissued since its first publication more than 25 years ago under Nikita Krushchev and is now unobtainable.

PAPER ON ROLE OF ZINOVYEV, KAMENEV UNDER LENIN

PM211515 [Editorial report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 April 1987 First Edition devotes page 4 to a 5,500-word feature by S. Nikolayev and N. Yerofeyev under the headline "Instance of Unprecedented Strikebreaking. Party Documents Testify to Events of Period Before October." The feature is prefaced by a reader's letter requesting information about Zinovyev and Kamenev since, although "they are usually regarded as enemies of the party," they were members of the party leadership and as such "were trusted by V.I. Lenin."

In their introduction the writers note: "Relations inside the party -- both before and after October -- were often complex, as Lenin's letters, notes, and articles of that period show. During and following the years of the personality cult, these relations were often oversimplified and distorted."

The writers focus on the events of late October 1917, when Zinovyev and Kamenev persistently opposed other party leaders' desire to go ahead with an immediate armed uprising. They intersperse quotations from transcripts of Central Committee sessions (participants include Lenin, Stalin, and Trotskiy) with comments and exposition. The feature concludes by suggesting that had Lenin personally attended the session discussing the behavior of Zinovyev and Kamenev he would have secured their expulsion from the party.

KAZUTIN STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF READING LENIN

PM291221 Moscow MOSCOW NEWS in English No 16, 19 Apr 87 p 8

[Dmitriy Kazutin article: "Reading Volume After Volume. Pages From The Notebook of Synopses"]

[Text] April 1987. Lenin's Image Is Lenin's Thought [subhead]

The Editorial Board instructed me to write an article on Lenin's birth anniversary, this time the 117th. A couple of years ago an assignment of this kind would not catch me unawares. There existed a collection of canonical models for articles of this nature, and a very vast one at that.

There were, of course, talented writings as well, all of them dealing with Lenin's personality, which was enormous and inexhaustible. This was a reply to the need - really existing in those years, not in the case of everyone, of course - to have a lofty moral example of a revolutionary. The more so that even a feeble likeness of such a person could be met less and less often in surrounding life. Periods of social stagnation have their own, totally different "heroes".

As paradoxical as it may be, the interest in Lenin's image was not identical with the interest in his thought, just like the interest in revolutionary ethics was not equivalent to revolutionary dialectics. The gap between his words and our deeds was too blatant. [paragraph continues]

Lenin's ideas were dangerous for the mechanism of retardation. At the January Plenary Meeting of the CPSU Central Committee it was said without beating about the bush that Lenin's propositions about socialism were interpreted in a simplified way, their theoretical profundity and relevance having been frequently emasculated.

Nadezhda Krupskaya put it with the utmost precision: "Lenin's image is Lenin's thought." These words are consonant with the reconstruction which, besides everything else, should cure us of "ideaphobia" - a chronic disease in times of stagnation. "I advise you," Krupskaya said, "to study Lenin, to read him volume after volume (chiefly over the Soviet period)...."

I follow this recommendation. I read. Many things seem to have been written today. I make notes. The result is something like a diary. Here are a few pages from this notebook.

October 1905. An Alarming Thought [subhead]

"It would be a mistake to think that the revolutionary classes are invariably strong enough to effect a revolution whenever such a revolution has fully matured by virtue of the conditions of social and economic development. No, human society is not constituted so rationally or so conveniently for progressive elements. A revolution may be ripe, and yet the forces of its revolutionary creators may prove insufficient to carry it out, in which case society decays, and this process of decay sometimes drags on for decades," Lenin wrote not long before the December armed uprising in Moscow, the main feature of the Russian Revolution of 1905.

We often argue whether or not it is possible to apply Lenin's thought, geared to one, quite definite historical epoch, to another epoch. I think that he himself answered this question when he compared the events and personalities of 1917 with those of the times of the French Revolution. Let us therefore also compare the situation, modelled by him at the beginning of this century, with the situation today.

How sagacious and at the same time alarming this thought is! Isn't it akin to the concern for the future of the reconstruction in public opinion? Will there be enough strength this time? After all, we witnessed how this very process of decay started after what was seen as radical reforms was left unaccomplished 20 years ago. That is why all our efforts should be given to the reconstruction. Without anything left over. A repetition of the situation would be tragic.

March-April 1918. Learn To Work [subhead]

"The Russian is a bad worker compared with people in advanced countries, "Lenin writes, and it's good that it is written by him. Should it be said by someone else, he would be accused of every moral sin under the sun and, of course, of slandering a whole nation.

However, Lenin always steered clear of claiming to be a connoisseur of the "people's spirit" and other abstractions existing outside the time and social realities. Later, commenting on a presumptious assertion by the Italian Socialist Lazzari who said: "We know the Italian people's mentality," Lenin will note ironically: "For my part I would not dare to make such an assertion about the Russian people."

A great dialectician, an enemy of every kind of dogma, which doubtlessly included various kinds of national labels, he knew that the world was mobile and tended to change. [paragraph continues]

In speaking about the Russian as a bad worker, he did not pass a final verdict with no room for appeal, but added at once: "It could not be otherwise under the czarist regime and in view of the persistence of the hangover from serfdom." And the immediately pointed to the way out: "The task that the Soviet government must set the people in all its scope is - learn to work."

April 1921, Fight Them According to All the Rules of the Art [subhead]

Lenin considered bureaucracy a dangerous enemy and treated it very seriously. He comprehensively investigated it and even gave a concise essay of its history. Here is his essay: "Look at the economic aspect of the evils of bureaucracy. We see nothing of them on May 5, 1918. Six months after the October Revolution, with the old bureaucratic apparatus smashed from top to bottom, we feel none of its evils.

"A year later, the Eighth Congress of the Russian Communist Party (March 18-23, 1919) adopted a new Party Programme in which we spoke forthrightly of 'a partial revival of bureaucracy within the Soviet system' - not fearing to admit the evil, but desiring to reveal, expose and pillory it and to stimulate thought, will, energy and action to combat it.

"Two years later, in the spring of 1921, after the Eighth Congress of Soviets (December 1920), which discussed the evils of bureaucracy, and after the Tenth Congress of the Russian Communist Party (March 1921), which summed up the controversies closely connected with an analysis of these evils, we find them even more distinct and sinister."

Whence this viability of the bureaucrats? From the same old source - from non-resistance to evil, although, according to Lenin's merciless characteristic, the Russian bureaucrat himself is a scoundrel and a rapist.

"We must fight them," Lenin said about bureaucrats, "according to all the rules of the art and take proceedings against Party comrades who go about lodging complaints, or telling anecdotes about the dirty tricks that are being played in some office or other. They go about Moscow telling anecdotes about the bureaucratic tricks that are being played. But you, comrades, who are intelligent Communists, what have you done to combat this? -- 'I lodged a complaint. -- Where did you file your complaint? It turns out that no complaint had been filed, whereas it should have been sent to the Council of People's Commissars and to the All-Russia Central Executive Committee; in other words, they should have exercised all their rights provided for by our Constitution.... Has any people's court convicted anyone for making a worker or a peasant call at an office four or five times and finally sending him off with an answer which is formally correct, but is essentially sheer mockery?"

The question is addressed directly to us, because we institute proceedings against an official if he has been caught stealing, but I have not yet known of a case when one would be put on trial for red tape. It is already known that a law is being drafted on the basis of Article 58 of the USSR Constitution which envisages the right to lodge a complaint against the actions of officials that infringe upon the interests of citizens.

October 1921. Shall We Be Able To Work for Our Own Benefit? [subhead]

Much is being said today about the New Economic Policy. But it is often visualized superficially, I believe, if not to say - primitively. [paragraph continues]

Everything is in general reduced to petty private trade. However, NEP is, first and foremost, a policy. A policy that was directly related to the fundamental issue -- the relationships between the two main classes of Soviet Russia: the working class and the peasantry. Everything -- the fate of Soviet power and the fate of socialism -- depended on the success of that policy.

That policy was provided for in terms of economic, legal and ideological support. It is not fortuitous therefore that one of Lenin's most brilliant speeches about NEP was his report to the Second All-Russian Congress of Political Education Departments. It is in this report that Lenin posed the key question: "Shall we be able to work for our own benefit?"

"The state must learn to trade in such a way that industry satisfies the needs of the peasantry, so that the peasantry may satisfy their needs by means of trade. We must see to it that everyone who works devotes himself to strengthening the workers' and peasants' state...

"The masses must become conscious of this, and not only conscious of it, but put it into practice.... After every deep-going political revolution the people require a great deal of time to assimilate the change."

Like any serious policy NEP had serious adversaries. "The three chief enemies," Lenin wrote, "...are the following: The first is communist conceit; the second -- illiteracy, and the third - bribery."

If from this moment on we follow the train of Lenin's thought, everywhere -- in the government's resolutions, the Party's decisions, in his public speeches and, lastly, in his last letters and articles and in his political testament -- his thought constantly takes up the cudgels against these three enemies no mattter under what guise of personification they may hide themselves.

April 1987. Further Advance [subhead]

In the past two years considerably less has been quoted from Lenin in books, reports and articles. Does it mean that people have come to think more - and to think exactly as Lenin did? Probably. His ideas were born of life. Life that was moving, flowing, changing. We would do a disservice to his cause if we confined ourselves to learning his text by rote. He insisted on careful consideration. "Let us consider Marx's idea carefully," he repeated on more than one occasion.

GORBACHEV SIGNS KIEV FORMER SECRETARY'S OBITUARY

PM211501 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[V.M. Tsybulko obituary]

[Excerpts] Vladimir Mikhaylovich Tsybulko, holder of an all-union status individual pension and former first secretary of Kiev Ukrainian Communist Party Obkom, died on 14 April 1987 at 62 after a long and grave illness.

V.M. Tsybulko was born on 19 September 1924 in Rovenki, Voroshilovgrad Oblast, the son of an office worker and attended the Donetsk Pedagogical Institute and Kiev Institute of the National Economy. [passage omitted]

M.S. Gorbachev, G.A. Aliyev, V.I. Vorotnikov, A.A. Gromyko, L.N. Zaykov, Ye.K. Ligachev, N.I. Ryzhkov, M.S. Solomentsev, V.M. Chebrikov, E.A. Shevardnadze, V.V. Shcherbitskiy, P.N. Demichev, V.I. Dolgikh, B.N. Yeltsin, N.N. Slyunkov, S.L. Sokolov, Yu.F. Solovyev, N.V. Talyzin, A.N. Yakovlev, A.P. Biryukova, A.F. Dobrynin, A.I. Lukyanov, V.A. Medvedev, V.P. Nikonov, G.P. Razumovskiy, I.V. Kapitonov, N.Ye. Kruchina, I.A. Gerasimov, Yu.N. Yelchenko, Ye.V. Kachalovskiy, B.V. Kachura, A.P. Lyashko, V.P. Mironov, I.A. Mozgovoy, V.A. Sologub, A.A. Titarenko, V.S. Shevchenko, S.I. Gurenko, V.A. Ivashko, Yu.A. Kolomiyets, V.D. Kryuchkov, V.A. Masol, S.N. Mukha, Ya.P. Pogrebnyak, and G.I. Revenko.

CHIMKENT OBKOM FIRST SECRETARY 'DIES SUDDENLY'

LD181920 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Rysbek Myrzashev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, Hero of Socialist Labor, first secretary of the Chimkent Kazakh Communist Party Obkom, died suddenly today. Rysbek Myrzashev worked with absolute commitment and showed determination in solving the tasks put before him in all sectors. He was characterized by humanity and a responsive attitude to people, says the obituary which was signed by Communist Party and Soviet state leaders.

At the 27th CPSU Central Committee Congress, Rysbek Myrzashev was elected candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee. He was a deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The Communist Party and the Soviet state highly valued the merits of Rysbek Myrzashev. In 1972 he was awarded the title of Hero of Socialist Labor: He was awarded the order of Lenin, two orders of the Red Banner of Labor, the order of the friendship of peoples and USSR medals.

The bright memory of Rysbek Myrzashev will be forever preserved in our hearts.

PRAVDA Carries Obituary

PM221439 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 87 Second Edition p 3

[Obituary of Rysbek Myrzashev]

[Excerpts] On 18 April 1987 Rysbek Myrzashev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet deputy, Hero of Socialist Labor, and first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Chimkent Obkom, died suddenly. [passage omitted]

R. Myrzashev has worked as first secretary of the Chimkent party obkom since July 1985. [passage omitted]

M.S. Gorbachev, Ye.K. Ligachev, N.I. Ryzhkov, M.S. Solomentsev, V.M. Chebrikov, E.A. Shevardnadze, V.V. Shcherbitskiy, P.N. Demichev, V.I. Dolgikh, B.N. Yeltsin, N.N. Slyunkov, S.L. Sokolov, Yu.F. Solovyev, N.V. Talyzin, A.N. Yakovlev, A.P. Biryukova, A.F. Dobrynin, A.I. Lukyanov, V.A. Medvedev, V.P. Nikonov, G.P. Razumovskiy, G.V. Kolbin, Ye.F. Bashmakov, V.A. Grebenyuk, L.Ye. Davletova, Z. Kamalidenov, S. Kubashev, V.A. Kuzmenko, M.S. Mendybayev, Yu.A. Mescheryakov, S. Mukashev, N.A. Nazabayev, A.P. Rybnikov.

PRAVDA CITES DEATH OF CPSU'S KIRICHENKO

PM081133 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Apr 87 First Edition p 6

[Obituary of I.P. Kirichenko]

[Text] Ivan Petrovich Kirichenko, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee General Department, died suddenly on 3 April 1987, at the age of 59.

I.P. Kirichenko was born on 14 January 1928 in the village of Krasnozersk, Novosibirsk Oblast. On graduating from the Kazakh State University in 1948 he worked for republic and oblast newspapers in Kazakhstan. From 1950 through 1958 he was an instructor, sector chief, and deputy chief of the Komsomol Central Committee Propaganda and Agitation Department. In 1958 he was promoted to work in the CPSU Central Committee apparatus. From 1962 through 1965 he was an inspector in the CPSU Central Committee Central Asian Bureau. He then worked for a number of years in the party Central Committee Propaganda Department. From 1972 through 1979 he was deputy chief editor of the newspaper SOVETSKAYA KULTURA.

I.P. Kirichenko worked in the CPSU Central Committee General Department from 1979. He was initially a consultant and then deputy chief of the department and chief of the letters subsection. There his first-rate professional and human characteristics showed themselves—particularly clearly and fully. He did much to improve work with letters and the reception of citizens in the CPSU Central Committee apparatus. I.P. Kirichenko was characterized by the utter tactfulness and consideration he showed people. He enjoyed great authority and respect.

He was presented with the Order of the Labor Red Banner, two Orders of the Badge of Honor, and medals for his services to the motherland.

The radiant memory of Ivan Petrovich Kirichenko, a great and modest worker and splendid person, comrade, and Communist, will always be retained in our hearts.

A group of comrades.

ALIYEV, OTHERS NOTE ARTIST ROMADIN'S DEATH

PM141505 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 87 Second Edition p 8

[Obituary of Nikolay Mikhaylovich Romadin]

[Excerpts] Soviet art has suffered a heavy loss. Nikolay Mikhaylovich Romadin, the outstanding artist, full member of the USSR Academy of Arts, people's artist of the USSR, and winner of the Lenin and USSR and RSFSR State Prizes, has died. [passage omitted]

G.A. Aliyev, V.I. Vorotnikov, Ye.K. Ligachev, B.N. Yeltsin, A.N. Yakovlev, Yu.P. Vorontov, V.G. Zakharov, Ye.M. Chekharin, M.K. Anikushin, A.M. Gritsay, Ye.V. Zaytsev, Yu.S. Karabasov, V.V. Karpov, V.S. Kemenov, A.P. Kibalnikov, E.G. Klimov, Yu.K. Korolev, P.M. Krylov, M.V. Kupriyanov, K.Yu. Lavrov, D.S. Likhachev, G.M. Markov, Yu.S. Melentyev, D.A. Nalbandyan, I.A. Naumenko, N.A. Ponomarev, M.V. Posokhin, K.I. Rozhdestvenskiy, V.T. Saykin, T.T. Salakhov, V.M. Sidorov, N.A. Sokolov, P.M. Sysoyev, S.P. Tkachev, B.S. Ugarov, T.N. Khrennikov, D.A. Shmarinov.

MEDIA COVERS 21-29 APRIL AGRICULTURAL WORK

LD300444 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian, unless otherwise indicated, on 21-29 April. GMT times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

21 April

Farmers of Amur Oblast have commenced mass sowing of early grain crops. (0204)

22 April

Farmers of Kakhkinskiy Rayon are the first in Turkmenistan to commence harvesting crops. Yields of perko here reach up to 100 quintals per hectare in many farms. Grasses in the republic are to be harvested over a short period of time on a total acreage of 24,000 hectares. (0000)

Farmers of Chimkent Oblast have just completed sowing alfalfa on about 130,000 hectares. (0000)

Potato planting has started in the Maritime Kray. (0000)

By today, sugar beets have been sown on 250,000 hectares in the Ukrainian Republic. (0204)

The kolkhozes and sovkhozes of the southern regions of Altay have started spring field works. Without waiting for large fields to dry out, the machine operators are plowing fields selectively, and where conditions are right they are adding mineral fertilizers. They are planning to plow 6 million hectares. (2130)

The machine operators of Osh Oblast in Kirghizia have started cotton sowing. Over 30,000 hectares are allocated for this crop. Now the seeds of the new local type Krigizskaya-3, which are well adapted to the climatic conditions, are being sown. (2130)

23 April

The Tuva machine operators have completed moisture retention on 50,000 hectares by today. The pace of work here is higher than last year, and the work is being conducted for the first time using anti-corrosion harrows. (0000)

Sowing of beets for fodder has been started in Issyk-Kul Oblast on about 3000 hectares. (0004)

Harvesting of winter rape has been started up in valleys of Kirghizia. (0204)

24 April

The republic's feed production teams have started harvesting catch crops: perko, rape, tritikale, and rye. These catch crops mean not only two harvests per year from each field but also 300 quintals of full-value fodder per hectare, which, moreover, is harvested in the months of March and April in which vitamins are in shortest supply. At the farms where catch crops are grown the milk herd return is far higher and the preservation of young stock in flocks is better. (1330)

'Kirgizskiy-60', a new corn hybrid, has been evolved by the republic's scientists. This new hybrid stands out by its ability to preserve nutritious substances in the stalk also after the cobs have ripened. This makes it possible to use the green bulk remaining after the harvest for silage. The first batch of seeds has been supplied to the farms of the Chu valley. (1330)

25 April

Belorussia -- spring grain and pulse crops have been sown on 500,000 hectares to date, a third of the republic's cultivated area. (0204)

26 April

Corn sowing has begun in Dagestan, almost 1 month behind schedule. This is a consequence of the difficult weather conditions this spring, and the long-awaited warm weather has still not arrived. (1100)

27 April -- no fileworthy items monitored.

28 April

Cotton sowing is now in progress on the second million hectares in Uzbekistan. The wet spring has slowed the pace; in many areas, seeds have only been sown on a third of the allocated land. Much attention is being paid to quality of the sowing -- and to the spacing of seeds in particular -- to reduce manual labor on thinning out and to speed growth. (0800)

The first million hectares have been covered with moisture in spring work in the Altay, one-sixth of the total sowing area. Harrowing has begun in the steppe area of Kolunda. (1100)

Top dressing of winter crops and perennial grasses is underway in the Ural and central rayons of Bashkiria where unusual weather conditions have forced helicopters to participate in spring work in the fields. (1100)

29 April

Harvesting of early fodder crops has started in Chimkent Oblast. (0600)

Sowing of early spring crops has begun at farms on Estonian islands. Spring field work is now underway in all union republics. Emphasis is being placed this year on the growing of oil-yielding crops. From this year the state will start paying far more than before for oil-yielding raw materials. Up to now farms received R230 for a tonne of sunflower seeds. From now onthe price will be R350. Purchase prices for oil-yielding flax, soya, rape, mustard, and falseflax are going up, too.

Farms will be paid additionally, for exceeding the average annual level for handing over oil-bearing seed in the last 5-year plan period, even in the event that the plan was not fulfilled. Such measures are aimed at fully meeting national economic requirements for plant oil and protein fodders. Sowing of oil-yielding crops is now in full swing in the north Caucasus. Sowing of the same -- very late because of cold weather -- is starting in the Ukraine, while sowing of sunflower has been completed in Moldavia and Georgia. (1100)

Data on spring field work was released today at the USSR State Committee for the Agro-Industrial Complex. Despite the rather late spring, various spring crops have been sown on 11 percent of the area allocated. Sugar beet has been sown on one-third of the area allocated and cotton on two-thirds. Top-dressing of winter crops is also underway on a broad front. (1500)

Sowing has started in west Kazakhstan. Cereal sowing is under way in Guryev Oblast. Spring crops already occupy over 670,000 hectares in south Kazakhstan -- in Alma-Ata, Dzhambul, Chimkent, Kzyl-Orda, and Taldy-Kurgan Oblasts. Cotton, annual grasses, and maize for grain are now being sown. Potatoes and vegetables are still being sown. Early May will see the start of rice-sowing in Alma-Ata Oblast -- the northernmost area where rice is grown in the USSR. Preparations for sowing are nearing completion in virgin-land oblasts -- the republic's principal grain-producing areas. (1800)

Specialized farms in Lithuania embarked today on the mass sowing of flax. For the first time, most plantations will be engaged in producing the high-yield Orshanskiy-2 variety of long-fibered flax, developed in Belorussia, and the locally developed UPT-2 variety. The aim this season is to produce at least 15,000 tonnes of fiber. (1800)

PRAVDA REVIEW STRESSES ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

PM291551 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Apr 87 First Edition p 1

[V. Yakovlev "Agricultural Review": "To the Field's Assistance"]

[Excerpts] Although spring is in no hurry this year, the cold weather is giving way little by little. Farmers are taking advantage of every fine hour. They have begun sowing on farms in almost all the union republics.

The USSR Central Statistical Administration reports that spring crops had been sown on 9.6 million hectares by 20 April. Machine operators are sowing grain crops, sugar beets, sunflowers, and annual grasses. A lot of concern is being shown for winter crops. They have not all withstood the cold weather well and have died in some fields. Weakened sections are now being resown and top-dressed. The real masters are hastening to retain moisture in the fields and keep the soil from drying out. Feed crops require particular attention.

Reclamation workers are also undertaking hard spring work together with farmers. This year they are faced with commissioning 1.3 million hectares of drained and irrigated land. Special attention is to be given to the reconstruction of existing irrigation systems. [paragraph continues]

It is planned to re-equip them over 1.13 million hectares. [passage omitted]

Questions of land and nature conservation are arising increasingly acutely. We must not be concerned only for the end result expressed in quintals of output. It is important to rid ourselves of indifference and naked pursuit of purely gross indicators. Any unconsidered step harms the land and the environment.

Not everything here is all right yet, and there are plenty of alarming facts. This is not the first year that M. Kotiyev, director of the North Osetian ASSR's "Khurikau" Sovkhoz, has called for assistance. Waste water from the purification installations of Malgobek City flood the farm's fields. It is not just crops that perish. The soil is spoiled. The waste water also harms two neighboring sovkhozes. The Chechen-Ingush ASSR's Malgobek Water and Sewage Administration is to blame. However, the leaders of this organization show little concern for the consequences of their own actions. They try their utmost to shift concern for instilling order onto others. And specialists of the autonomous republic's Ministry of Land Reclamation and Water Resources have behaved no better. On being given the task of clearing a discharge canal, they did not deem it necessary to coordinate their plans with the management of the "Khurikau" Sovkhoz. And when the farm disagreed with the chosen route, the reclamation workers at once curtailed their work. The director asked where he could turn to save the arable land. Formal replies came from all sides, but no assistance. We hope that this year does not end with a big harvest shortfall too.

Reclamation workers can do a particularly great deal to develop the feed base of livestock units. Their work in the forage field is not yet distinguished by its activeness. There are millions of hectares of natural meadows and pastures in the country. The majority of them are neglected and produce meager harvests of grasses. It is time to really tackle the improvement of this land.

Every spring day adds to reclamation workers' concerns. Fields are being watered on many southern farms. But irrigation systems and sprinklers are still not everywhere ready for hard work. Part of the equipment is defective in the Kalmyk ASSR and Chimkent Oblast and on many Kirghiz farms. It is important to show concern for accumulating adequate stocks of water for irrigation during the spring flood period.